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IMPERIAL MYCOLOGICAL INSTITUTE 4 NOV 1941

Vol. XLII. No. 9 SEPTEMBER 5th, 1941 Price 6d.

IMPERIAL MYCOLOGICAL INSTITUTE 4 NOV 1941

Special Articles This Month

Budding, Grafting, Reworking Fruit Trees (Continued)
Apple and Pear Spraying
Apple and Pear Acquisition
New Zealand Fruit Industry
Murrumbidgee Irrigation Areas
N.S.W. Meeting Reports
Personal News and Notes
Seasonable Citrus Notes
Goulburn Valley (Victoria)
Canned and Dried Fruits
Western Australia
South Australian News & Notes
The Market Grower
Victorian Orchard Notes

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Extract from "BETTER FRUIT," by Dr. R. L. Webster, Entomologist, State College of Washington, Pullman: CODLING MOTH COVER SPRAYS—"Ever since the imposition of an arsenic tolerance in 1926, and even before that time, investigators have been testing other materials which may be used in place of lead arsenate. Following all these intensive and extensive investigations lead arsenate appears to have certain inherent qualities which place this material foremost as an insecticide for codlin moth control."

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THE MARKET GROWER

LETTUCE GROWING.

Manurial and Fertilizer Practice.

LETTUCE, being a quick-growing, leafy crop, requires an abundance of humus, water, and nitrogenous manure.

Heavy dressings of animal manure are necessary (states the N.S.W. Department of Agriculture); applications of from 20 to 100 tons per acre are not considered excessive. The manure should be decayed in order to destroy any weed seeds it contains and to break down the straw, etc. It is found that long straw encourages insect pests such as Wood Bugs and Slugs.

In recent years it has been shown very clearly, particularly in the sandy soils around Sydney or on soils which are regularly treated with sulphate of ammonia, that lime must be used in order to correct excessive acidity. Soil observations have proved that either agricultural lime or magnesium limestone (dolomite) are the best forms of lime to use for this crop. A normal dressing of 1 ton per acre is required in most cases. If Lettuce or some other heavy feeding crop is grown regularly a lime dressing of 5 cwt. per acre should be given annually. Lettuce does not like an acid soil.

Artificial fertilizers are not generally used when the previous crop has been heavily manured with a fertilizer mixture containing bonedust. There is a feeling among growers that superphosphate causes the Spring crop to run to seed. There is a likelihood of this occurring when the supply of organic matter has been light, the water supply poor, and the superphosphate is used alone. Superphosphate produces early maturity of most crops, and may be responsible for the tendency referred to.

When the land has been well supplied with organic matter it is found that a mixture consisting of two parts superphosphate and one part sulphate of ammonia will give excellent results.

Top-dressings of nitrogenous manure, either in the form of poultry manure or as sulphate of ammonia, are essential to bring the crop to perfection. As many as three dressings are carried out by the best growers. Liquid organic manure is excellent at all stages of growth.

TOMATO INDUSTRY.

Normal Plantings Expected.

Mr. L. Pithers, President of the Victorian Tomato Growers' Association, stated recently that Tomato growers throughout the district appeared to be going ahead with planting.

Although in some cases the amount of land being used for Tomato growing was less than in previous years because of the possible shortage of labor, other growers were increasing their areas, and it was anticipated that the total area would be about the same as last year.

Mr. Pithers said that the Association was still active regarding the formation of a Tomato Board, and he expected there would be rapid developments once the State Parliament re-assembled. Once the Tomato Bill was passed, steps would be taken immediately towards forming a Board.

THE CAPE GOOSEBERRY.

Now is the time for sowing seeds of the Cape Gooseberry in a seed box; the seedlings should be transplanted when large enough to handle after the danger of frosts is past.

Plant seedlings 3 ft. apart in enriched soil.

Cape Gooseberries are excellent for jams, preserves and jellies.

Should downy mildew appear, spray with Bordeaux; white oil will control scale.

VICTORIAN POTATO INDUSTRY.

IN ORDER TO STABILISE the potato industry in Victoria regulations were brought in under the National Security (Emergency Powers) Acts and a maximum price of £6 a ton (f.o.r. Melbourne) has been fixed by the Commonwealth Prices Commissioner on such proportion of the growers' crops as can be effectively marketed. So far the growers' quota has been 40 per cent.

An interstate conference was held about the middle of the year, but as Tasmania did not agree, Victoria went ahead with her own plans in co-operation with the Commonwealth Government. The Victorian crop is estimated at 257,000 tons for 1941, and the average consumption in this State is 120,000 tons plus interstate consignments and potatoes for seed of 50,000. An unprecedented glut was pending.

The Victorian Potato Committee, of which the chairman is Mr. J. M. Ward, Superintendent of Horticulture, observed that growers were selling their potatoes at the utterly unpayable price of 32/6 a ton at country stations, hence the passing of regulations fixing the maximum at £6 a ton, growers to operate on 40 per cent. of their normal quantity. It is compulsory for all Victorian potatoes for human consumption to be supplied in sealed bags. The maximum price for potatoes in unsealed bags is 10/- per ton—making it impossible for interstate supplies to come to Victoria on that basis.

The problem is an urgent one affecting the stability of the potato industry, hence the necessary steps taken to safeguard the position.

Potatoes sold for interstate trade or for seed purposes do not have to be in sealed bags. Interstate trade is carried on in the normal manner.

Reports from various centres indicate that the stabilization plan has so far been successful.

TWO NEW VARIETIES.

Tomato and Cantaloupe.

A new Tomato that is resistant to Fusarium Wilt is reported by the U.S. Department of Agriculture. It is to be known as Riverside, and is the product of crossing Cal 2, a late-maturing variety, and Marvena, an early variety. It is designed for heavy production and long-distance shipping. It is remarkably free from radial stem-end cracking. It is also a good canner.

Honeyball 306 is the name given to a new mildew-resistant Cantaloupe that is small and lends itself to shipping and ease of selling. With thick, light pink flesh and a dry seed cavity, it weighs from 2 to 3 lb. when ripe. Both varieties are reported in the "California Cultivator."

TOMATO INDUSTRY IN VICTORIA.

Proposal for Control Board.

Proposals are under consideration in Victoria for factory Tomatoes to be controlled under a Tomato Board.

The area in Victoria under Tomatoes last Autumn was 8,000 acres, and the crop 4,000,000 bushels. The Tomato Growers' Association is requesting control legislation, particularly for factory Tomatoes grown in the Shepparton and Bendigo areas. The control system is opposed by growers of table Tomatoes at Portland, Quantong, and other places.

A compromise is suggested for the control to apply to factory Tomatoes from the main producing areas and for growers of table Tomatoes to be specifically excluded.

Mr. White: "It's no use arguing, Susan, you cannot deny the fact that you were quite an ignorant woman when I married you."

His Wife: "Yes, that probably accounts for it."

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NEWS OF THE MONTH.

PROPOSED SNOWY RIVER DIVERSION.

Owing to the severe water shortage in the Sydney water catchment area, discussions are proceeding regarding the diversion of the Snowy River to augment Sydney's water supply.

On the other hand, settlers in the Murrumbidgee Irrigation Areas feel that Snowy River water is needed to supplement the Murrumbidgee water supply. A deputation was appointed to put before the N.S.W. Government their opposition to the use of the Snowy River waters for hydro-electric purposes only, and requesting their utilisation for agricultural, town water supply, and electrical purposes.

ALIEN LANDHOLDERS.

N.S.W. Minister Recommends Federal Action to Prevent Property Transfers to Enemy Aliens.

Infiltration in Banana Industry and M.I.A.

THE PROBLEM of the alien settler in the Banana industry, the Murrumbidgee Irrigation Areas and elsewhere in the State was receiving earnest consideration, according to a recent statement by the Minister for Agriculture (Mr. W. F. Dunn). He stated that he was conferring with the Queensland Minister regarding excess Banana planting, which was being caused mainly by the infiltration of foreigners, and that it has been decided to refer to the Commonwealth authorities the question of the legal position of unnaturalised aliens holding land in the Commonwealth.

It was stated that many aliens who were share farmers were in reality purchasing properties, and had adopted this subterfuge to evade the regulations.

U.S.A. AND CANADIAN APPLES.

Prospects Only Medium.

A recent report from U.S.A. states that the Apple crops both of U.S.A. and Canada are only medium, probably less than last year.

OBITUARY.

Mr. W. D. Jarman, a well-known fruitgrower at Red Hill, Vic., passed away recently. The late Mr. Jarman was widely esteemed. He applied up-to-date methods in his productive orchard and showed farsightedness as a business man. He will be greatly missed in his district where he took a keen interest in all progressive matters.

:: :: ::

During the month, we received intimation of the death of **Mrs. Reedy,** mother of Mr. J. Reedy, well known in the fruit and vegetable markets of Sydney. Our very sincere sympathy is extended to Mr. Reedy and the other members of the family at this time.

:: :: ::

It is with very sincere regret that we learned of the death of the father of another well-known agent, **Mr. E. W. Parker.** Mr. Parker, Senr., who was very well and favorably known in the early marketing days of Sydney, had recently received congratulations on the attainment of his hundredth birthday.

:: :: ::

Mr. G. A. Try, Secretary of the N.S.W. Dried Fruits Board died suddenly on August 15.

Sympathy for the widow and relatives has been expressed by all sections of the dried fruits industry.

The late Mr. Try was an able officer, and highly respected. In addition to his many duties, he was of great service in connection with the organising of the recent Empire Producers' Conference in Sydney.

:: :: ::

Mr. Frank Walker, the well-known nurseryman, florist and fruitgrower, died on August 18 at Launceston, aged 87 years. The deceased gentleman left his mark for good on Australian horticulture. He came from England 65 years ago and developed fruit tree and flowering shrub nurseries at Launceston and Lalla on a substantial scale. He travelled widely and was frequently in attendance at Tasmanian and interstate fruitgrowers and nurserymen's conferences. At his "Lalla" property, near Launceston, the

famous "Lalla" Apple was originated. He leaves a family of two daughters and three sons.

A wide circle of friends mourn the passing of this vigorous pioneer.

PERSONAL.

Mr. John Douglass, Vegetable Expert in the N.S.W. Department of Agriculture, has joined the staff of the Commonwealth Department of Supply. Mr. Douglass recently went abroad and studied vegetable culture in other countries, and in his new work he will give technical advice regarding vegetable growing and processing for the military authorities.

:: :: ::

Major P. J. Savage and Mr. J. H. Kidd have been appointed by the Committee of Direction of Fruit Marketing, Brisbane, Queensland, to go to Sydney to negotiate an agreement with the New South Wales Chamber of Fruit and Vegetable Industries.

:: :: ::

Another "grand old man" of Sydney Markets, **Mr. Fred Beavis,** recently celebrated another milestone, and we take this opportunity of wishing him "very many happy returns."

:: :: ::

Mr. Field Newton, previously of the Selbest Packing House, of Griffith (N.S.W.), and the Gosford Co-op. Citrus Packing House, was recently appointed packing shed manager at the Leeton Cannery for dealing with fresh fruit.

:: :: ::

Mr. George Hawke, Chairman of Directors of the Orange Producers' Rural Co-op. Society (N.S.W.), recently resigned on account of ill-health. Mr. Hawke was chairman for nine years. Sympathy is extended to him, and the hope for his speedy recovery to full health.

NEWS IN BRIEF.

Under the auspices of the Banana Growers' Federation Co-op. Ltd., experimental plots are being conducted in four districts in N.S.W. — Coffs Harbour, Brunswick, Richmond, and the Tweed. Manurial tests will be conducted under the supervision of the Dept. of Agriculture.

:: :: ::

The increase in the codling moth in Tasmania is stated to be due to neglect on the part of some orchardists and the labor shortage.

Grapefruit grown in Queensland is increasing in popularity. The grade standard provide that the diameter must be not less than 3in.; the fruit must be well grown, free from blemish and the skin clear yellow.

:: :: ::

The Minister for Customs stated recently that an application had been received for permission to import Apples from Canada, but the request had been rejected.

THE ACQUISITION SCHEME.

To the Editor,
"Fruit World."
Sir,

In the August issue of "Fruit World" appears a letter over the name of L. M. Spencer.

Maybe he has acquired a property during the last two years, and has been caught "on the hop" by the war, as has happened in this district in several instances, but judging by the tone of his letter I venture the opinion that he has, like the writer, been a fruitgrower over a period of years; perhaps the best part of a lifetime. If this be so, while I do not claim to be anything approaching a brilliant success at the business, it says little for L. M. Spencer's abilities as an orchardist, that, having had acquisition for the last two crops, he now wants to be further spoon-fed by a continuance of the scheme for another three or four years, in order that (to use his own words) "we growers will once again be able to lift our heads and pay our debts."

The only conclusion one can arrive at is that but for the outbreak of war, with its attendant acquisition scheme, L. M. Spencer would have been well and truly broke.

Yours, etc.,
GEORGE R. PHILBRICK.
Somerville, Vic., 18/8/41.

As Spraying is a Necessity
—then use the World's Best—

NEPTUNE SPRAYS...

The better quality of **NEPTUNE** Sprays is always obvious by comparison with others. **NEPTUNE** Sprays conform to the highest standards, and they are consistently uniform in strength and quality. Successful Orchardists recommend them. *Try them yourself and prove that they're better!*

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NEPTUNE PREPARED RED SPRAYING OIL ("A," "C," or Heavy Base)
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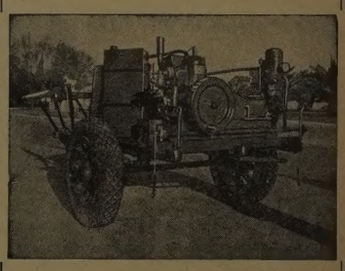

All models can be fitted with pneumatic tyres at little extra cost.

Write for Particulars

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Box Hill, E.11 Victoria

STRAWBERRIES £65 to £75 PER TON.

High Prices for Soft Fruits in England.

An amendment to the Soft Fruits (Maximum Prices) Order, 1941, is to the effect that the maximum prices for Strawberries, Raspberries, Black Currants and Gooseberries have been increased, and that the prices of Red Currants and White Currants will not now be controlled.

Growers' prices have been increased as follows:—

Gooseberires, from £26 to £30 per ton.

Strawberries, from £65 to £75 per ton.

Raspberries, from £45 to £47/10/- per ton.

Black Currants, from £65 to £90 per ton.

These prices now govern all sales by growers. No matter, therefore, whether a grower wishes to sell his fruit on roadside stalls to consumers, or sells to retailers, wholesalers or licensed preservers, the maximum price which he is permitted to charge will, except under licence, be the same.

Corresponding increases have been made in wholesale and retail prices as follows:—

	Maximum Wholesale Price. per lb.	Maximum Retail Price. per lb.
Gooseberries . .	4d.	5d.
Strawberries . .	10½d.	1/2
Raspberries . .	6¾d.	9d.
Black Currants .	11½d.	1/3

The Ministry of Food wishes to emphasise that the intention of the Order, as now amended, is to **secure the preservation of the maximum quantity of home-grown soft fruit,** and the Order has been so framed that the bulk of the fruit will go to the preservers. Supplies of fresh fruit in the shops will probably, therefore, not be plentiful.

Apple & Pear Spraying

Hints on Spring Activities.

The spraying of Apple and Pear trees in Spring is one of the very important items in the orchardists' calendar.

Mr. L. Paynter, Auckland District Supervisor, N.Z. Department of Agriculture, writes as follows in the Department's Journal:—

Successful spray control depends on these factors:—

(1) A knowledge of the disease or pest it is intended to control.

(2) The use of the most efficient economic spray material.

(3) The correct mixing of the spraying materials.

(4) Application of the spray at the **right time.**

(5) Application of the spray in adequate quantities, and an equipment which will give sufficient pressure and spray coverage.

The following spray schedule is recommended for Apples and Pears:—

Apple Spray Schedule.

1. Dormant	Winter Oil 5% 1:20	Scale insects, Red Mite
2. Green Tip	Bordeaux Mixture 5:4:50 or Lime Sulphur 0.5% . . . 1:30	Black Spot Powdery Mildew
3. Open Cluster and Pink	Lime Sulphur 0.1% . . 1:150	Black Spot
4. Petal Fall	(Lime Sulphur 0.1% . . 1:150 (Plus (Arsenate of Lead 1½ lb. to 100 (gals. (3 lb. hydrated lime to 100 gals. (2 lb. colloidal sulphur 100 gals.	Black Spot Codling Moth For russet-susceptible varieties replace L/S with colloidal 3:100. With C.O.P. and Jonathan use only 2:100.
5. Repeat No. 4 at intervals of 10 to 14 days and subsequently as required.		
January	Bordeaux mixture 1½:3:50, plus A. Lead 1½ lb. to 100 gals., plus spreader	Glomerella and Codling Moth

It may be necessary to repeat this and should Red Mite be present add 1½:1:100 Summer Oil.

Pear Spray Schedule.

1. Dormant	Winter Oil 5% 1:20	Scale Insects Mealy Bug
2. Green Tip	Bordeaux 5:4:50 or 4:5:50.	Black Spot
3. Pink	Bordeaux 3:4:50.	Black Spot
4. Calyx	(Bordeaux 2:3:50 plus A. Lead (1½ to 100 gals. or (Lime Sulphur 0.1% . . 1:150 (plus A. Lead 1½ to 100 gal. (plus hydrated lime 3 lb. to 100 (gals.	Black Spot Codling Moth Substitute for the above for all tender varieties.
5. 14 to 17 days later	Bordeaux 1½:3:50 plus A. Lead 1½ to 100 gals.	Ditto Ditto

Subsequent sprays as required at intervals of 17 to 21 days up until the middle of February.

DONT'S IN SPRAYING.

Don't use iron or tin vessels for Bordeaux Mixture, as it will destroy them and possibly be detrimental to the spray.

Don't spray the trees when they are wet, either after heavy dew or rain.

Don't mix together copper sulphate and milk of lime for making Bordeaux Mixture before either one or both are very much diluted.

Don't mix up more spraying material at a time than you can use in one day.

Don't guess either the weight or measurement of the spraying materials you are going to use. Damage can be caused by overstrong mixtures, or you may fail to control the disease if the spray is under strength. All certified spraying materials have been proved to be not only safe but also effectual so long as the directions are followed carefully.

Blyth's "BLUE BELL" Quality Sprays

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For Over Twenty-five Years "BLUE BELL" Arsenate of Lead has Proved a Faithful Friend to Growers.

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Arsenate of Lead (Paste or Powder), Lime Sulphur, Special Copper Mixture (Fungicide), Spray Spreader, White Oil, Nicotine Sulphate, Red Oil, etc.

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Queensland: A.C.F. and Shirleys Fertilizers Ltd., Brisbane.
South Australia: George Wills & Co. Ltd., Gilbert House, Gilbert Place, Adelaide.
Western Australia: Gibbs, Bright & Co., 179 St. George's Terrace, Perth.

Works: PRAHRAN GROVE, ELSTERNWICK, VICTORIA — LF 1468.

Seasonable Orchard Notes

RE-WORKING — SPRAYING — CITRUS CULTURE.

(By J. L. Provan, B.Agr.Sc., Senior Horticultural Instructor, Department of Agriculture, Victoria.)

IN Victorian orchards there are approximately 100,000 Apple trees which could be re-worked with advantage to the industry. If to this number is added the obsolete varieties of Pear, citrus and other fruit trees which could be reworked, the importance of this phase of horticulture will be realised by all those interested in fruit-growing. Organised marketing and the necessity for the elimination of a number of varieties because of the restricted capacity of the home markets have encouraged many growers to grasp the opportunity of re-working the present unwanted and unprofitable varieties of trees to those varieties which are required, or that will command more remunerative prices when the present circumstances have become a thing of the past.

Unfortunately, the season for re-working by grafting is the Spring, when the grower's time is occupied so fully with the spray pump. The present shortage of labor in many of the orchard districts is another factor which is preventing growers from undertaking a vigorous re-working campaign.

It is recommended, however, that where it is possible, growers should re-work at least a portion of their healthy, though obsolete varieties.

A series of articles on budding and grafting fruit trees is now appearing in the Victorian Journal of Agriculture. This series, which commenced in the July number, has been prepared with the idea of assisting the beginner to master the principles and practice of this art so that he will attack this work with confidence. Growers who require further advice should enlist the help of the district Orchard Supervisor.

Spraying.

Early in September, the first spray application of Bordeaux mixture 6:4:40 for the control of black spot of Pears, should be made when the Pear trees have reached the delayed "green-tip" stage. Packham's Triumph and Winter Nelis varieties are usually ready for this spray about the first week in September, and are followed by Josephine and B. Bosc, and later, by Williams. It is customary to spray Josephine and Winter Cole at a slightly earlier "green-tip" stage than the other varieties. The correct "green-tip" stage is recognised when the maximum number of blossom buds has the brown scales (bracts) sepparting, and the tips of the green folded leaves are just visible.

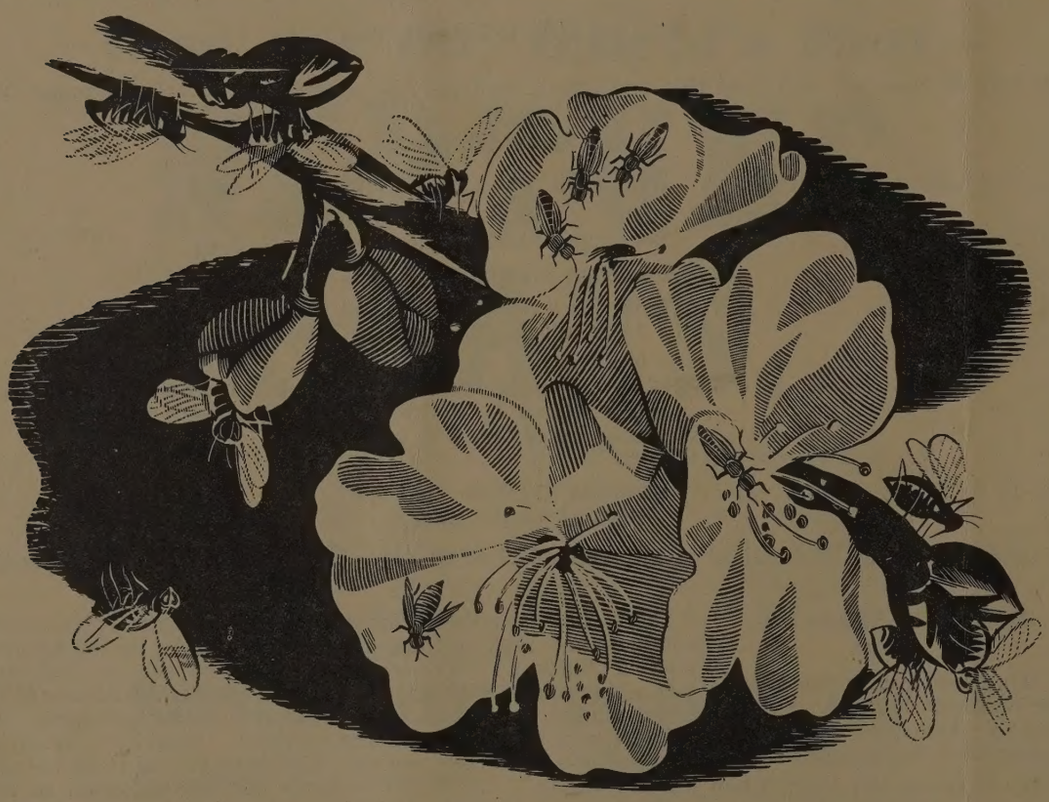
Later in the month, about 8 to 12 days after the first spray, the second 6:4:40 Bordeaux mixture can be applied to all varieties except Josephine. This spray is applied at the "finger" stage, and for Winter Nelis and Madam Cole, the application must be applied before any petals show pink, otherwise severe russeting may occur. The "finger" stage is recognised when the green leaves are separated from the clustered blossom buds which are just beginning to separate, but the white petals have not yet appeared.

Citrus growers should carry out an inspection of their trees for any signs of collar rot, anthracnose or septoria. It is a good practice where these diseases are prevalent to apply a 3:3:50 Bordeaux mixture with three-quarters of a gallon of white oil added, during September. This spray not only assists in the control of leaf and fruit-spotting fungi, but also helps in reducing the incidence of black pit and brown rot of citrus.

The treatment for **collar rot** includes the careful removal of all diseased areas on the trunk, cutting away infected wood until a clean surface is reached, and painting the wounds immediately with a mixture made of equal parts of bluestone and slaked lime with sufficient water to make a paste. Pruning the skirt of the tree that is in contact with the soil and removing the tall weeds which may keep the trunks and lower limbs of the trees moist, also assist in controlling this trouble as well as brown rot. Care should be taken to collect all infected chips, and implements used in cutting the bark should be sterilized by dipping in a formalin solution (1 in 40).

After the **Navel Orange** crop has been harvested, essential pruning work can be carried out. This will include the removal of dead wood from the centre of the tree and also the removal of water-shoots, which are not required in framework construction, and limbs interfering with normal cultivation. In the bearing brush wood, dying twigs and dead fruiting branches may be removed with a view to stimulating the fruit-bearing wood during the coming season. The pruning of Valencia Late Oranges can be delayed until after harvesting.

A zinc-lime spray, 10 lbs. of zinc sulphate, 5 lbs. of freshly-slaked lime and 100 gallons of water or a straight zinc acid spray; 3 lbs. per 100 gallons should be applied to citrus trees as soon as the crop is harvested to overcome mottle-leaf.



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Budding, Grafting, and Methods of Reworking Fruit Trees

(By J. L. Provan, B.Agr.Sc., Senior Horticultural Instructor, and F. J. Greatorex, Orchard Supervisor, in the Victorian "Journal of Agriculture.")

(Continued from August "Fruit World.")

CITRUS can be budded in Spring, Summer, or Autumn, and November, March, and April are considered the best months. Citrus trees have several growth periods in one year, and therefore more opportunities exist for budding them. Citrus trees in northern Victoria were still in a fit condition to bud as late as May this year (1941).

Spring Budding—Deciduous.

In Victoria, Spring budding of deciduous trees is not practised extensively, being confined mainly to the stone fruits. It differs from dormant budding in that the bud-sticks are cut in late Winter from the dormant tree and must be stored until the stock commences to grow. The shield of wood in the bud cannot be removed easily and therefore it is necessary to cut a thin bud, i.e., with very little of the underlying wood attached. The bud unites with the stock and commences to grow in a few weeks.

Budding—Citrus Trees.

Citrus can be budded in exactly the same way as deciduous trees, but frequently the inverted "T" (⊥) cut is used (Fig. 8). When this method is adopted the bud is inserted from below and pushed up under the two flaps of bark. It is claimed that this latter method is more successful if wet weather follows budding. Citrus buds have a tendency to slip out when being tied, and to overcome this, tying is commenced either a little below the cross cut if the inverted "T" (⊥) cut is used, or just above, if the "T" cut is used.

Either dormant or Spring budding may be used for citrus. For Spring budding, the bud-sticks are cut from the growing tree just before use and must be treated in the same manner as bud-sticks in dormant budding. The shield of wood can be removed easily from the bud.

Grafting.

No fundamental distinction exists between budding and grafting. In the former, the scion consists of one bud, whereas in the latter it is a short twig with more than one bud and is called a **grafting scion**, or simply a **scion** (see definitions in first instalment of this article). A bud is simply slipped under the bark to make contact with the wood. In some forms of grafting, the scion is actually inserted into and held in position by the **wood** of the stock, although provision is made at the same time for contact between the cambial regions of the scion and stock. In other forms, the scion is forced between the wood and the **bark**, and the cambial layers automatically contact, the scion being specially prepared for this purpose. In budding, it is preferable to bud on to a part of the stock with thin bark, i.e., young wood. In grafting, the age and the size of the grafted part of the stock are immaterial, because of the many methods of grafting available. A list of the methods of grafting used in Victoria has been given in the first instalment of this article, and each method will be described later under one of the headings —**Top-working** or **Frame-working.**

Re-working.

The term "re-working" is used to describe the changing of the variety of a tree by budding or grafting. There are several reasons why re-working should occupy an important place. For some years past, the Commonwealth Government, at the request of the various State Governments, has been reducing the number of varieties of Apples and Pears permitted to be exported. The varieties eliminated are either of poor quality and therefore unpopular with the public, or their storage life is too short. Then, too, new varieties, of all kinds of fruit, with more desirable characteristics, are introduced from time to time, and older varieties are displaced from favor. In other cases, some varieties have been planted and later it has been discovered that the environment does not suit them.

When the re-working process entails the removal of most of the top part of a tree (stock) it is called **Top-working.** If all, or nearly all, of the branch system of the tree is retained, the method is called **Frame-working.**

The main advantages of top-working are that it is simple, quick, and the actual cost of the operation is small. This method is satisfactory on pome fruit trees up to about eight years old (Fig. 9), and for stone fruit and citrus trees up to any age (Figs. 10 and 11).

The disadvantages in the case of older trees are that almost the entire frame-work of the tree is lost and must be regrown. It has been observed that old trees, after top-working, seldom attain their former size, even after a long period. In many varieties the crop is lost for at least five years, and the tree may never yield crops, as heavy as those obtained prior to top-working. When top-worked Apple, Pear, and citrus trees do recommence to crop, the quality of the fruit will be inferior and have poor keeping qualities for several years. In many districts in Victoria, there is a real danger of the large wounds, associated with this method of re-working, becoming infected with wood-rotting fungi, such as **Polystictus**, Silver-leaf (**Stereum**), and **Schizophyllum**, which ultimately destroy the tree.

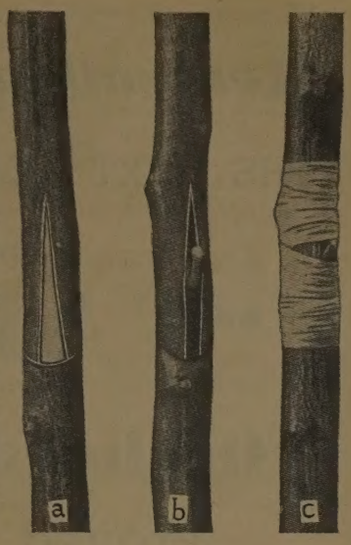

Fig. 8—Stages in the Citrus Budding Operation.

(a) Inverted "T" ("⊥") cut on stock with flaps of bark raised: (b) bud inserted: (c) bud tied with raffia.

Frame-working, on the other hand, largely overcomes the above disadvantages of top-working, while its chief drawbacks are the initial cost of the operation and the scarcity of skilled labor to do the work. The earlier and heavier cropping of the trees, and the better quality of the fruit, however, usually more than offset the initial cost of this method. It is unsuitable for stone fruit trees.

Frequently, a combination of top-working and frame-working is used, the large wounds being avoided by top-working as high as possible in the tree and adopting frame-work grafts for the lower portions of the branches.

(To be continued)

Fig. 9—Vigorous growth of a young Apple tree after top-working.

Fig. 10—A 21 years old sweet Orange seedling top-worked three years ago by budding on to new growth. The marks on trunk are caused by whitewash.

Fig. 11—A Cherry tree top-worked by means of whip-tongued grafts when the limbs were small.

(Illustrations by courtesy Victorian "Journal of Agriculture.")

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Southern Victoria Fruitgrowers' Assoc.

Sale of Apples and Pears by Count Instead of by Weight Favoured — Shortage of Orchard Labour — Pear Black Spot Experiments.

THE ANNUAL MEETING of the Southern Victoria Fruitgrowers' Association was held at the Box Hill Town Hall on August 14, 1941. The President, Mr. G. T. Knee, was in the chair. Mrs. Weber, M.L.A., in officially opening the meeting, said that problems of the fruit industry should be viewed from the Australian-wide aspect. Closer co-operation between Federal and State Government with the municipalities was necessary. Endeavors were being made for developing the women's land army; this involved the raising of the status of farm hands and provision for suitable housing accommodation. Women had volunteered services for preserving foodstuffs. In relation to fruit this meant the making of jams and preserves during the flush of the season; for this purpose municipal councils would need to provide adequate facilities.

Mr. R. E. Boardman proposed a vote of thanks to Mrs. Weber. In seconding, Mr. F. Beet spoke of the increasing difficulties of orchard labor.

Annual Report.

The Secretary read the annual report of the Executive:—

Your Executive met during the year to deal with matters affecting growers generally.

Selling Fruit by Count: That was brought forward by Geelong representatives and carried, but when presented to the Minister it had an unsympathetic reception.

Neglected Orchards: The Department has done good work in dealing with orchards which are a menace to growers who endeavour to grow good fruit.

Sale of Fruit on Saturday Afternoons: An Act was passed giving permission for the sale of fruit at sports meetings on Saturday afternoons throughout the year. For the colder six months fruit shops are closed on Saturday afternoons, but they open on Saturday afternoons during Summer and Autumn.

Hour of Opening at the Victoria Market: A deal of discussion has taken place re the opening hours, these being changed from time to time, thereby causing uncertainty and friction. We suggest that uniform hours be adopted and maintained. The present hours are:—Monday and Wednesday, 7 a.m. Friday, 6 a.m. Tuesday, Thursday, Saturday, 5 a.m.

Suspension of Market Stand Dues: Growers of Apples and Pears who are holders of stands at the Victoria Market can, if they so desire, have their dues suspended, that is, if they will not be using the market during the full period of the acquisition operations — an arrangement which has given general satisfaction.

Excess Water Charges: A large and influential deputation waited on the Metropolitan Board in an endeavour to have water for irrigation purposes reduced from 1/- to 6d. per 1,000 gals. Hon. G. L. Chandler, M.L.C., has been untiring in his efforts to secure the reduction in charges. The deputation was well received; they received the usual reply "the request would receive consideration."

Research Work at Doncaster: In conjunction with the Department of Agriculture experiments have been carried out for the past six years at Doncaster dealing with Black Spot and other diseases in Pears. Valuable help was given by the Commonwealth Bank from the Rural Credits Fund; at the present time there is £90 in hand for further work.

Other activities include looking after the orchards of soldiers who are on active service (in conjunction with other kindred Associations), also delivering fruit to schools, kindergartens, creches.

Future Activities of the Association: A lengthy discussion took place regarding the future, and it was unanimously decided that, despite the difficult times the industry was experiencing, the Association should continue its activities.

The following office-bearers were elected:—President, Mr. G. T. Knee; Executive, Messrs. W. A. Thiele, A. F. Miller—Doncaster, Messrs. G. G. Miller, T. Harrington—Diamond Creek, Messrs. A. R. Toogood, J. W. Aspinall—Box Hill, Mr. F. G. Beet—Vermont; Secretary and Treasurer, H. J. Noonan—Donvale.

At this meeting Mr. J. W. Aspinall resigned from the Secretaryship, a position he had held for 22 years.

Many expressions of appreciation for long service rendered on behalf of the industry by Mr. Aspinall were voiced by delegates.

Black Spot Experiments: A report, prepared by Mr. S. Fish, M.Ag.Sc., Government Biologist, dealing with the research work carried out at Doncaster, was presented to the meeting.

The work was continued last season on a block of Packham Pears at Mr. W. A. Thiele's orchard. The object of the experiment was to develop refinements in the spray schedules so as to give control of Pear Black Spot with the minimum amount of fruit russet. The spray schedules tested included ten treatments, each replicated seven times, using single tree units which were randomised.

Two pre-blossom Bordeaux Mixture 6:4:40 sprays were applied to all the trees except the unsprayed controls; these sprays were followed by eight different cover spray schedules. All eight treatments were applied as first cover spray applications, while three of these were applied a second time.

The season was most unfavorable for Black Spot development, there being no affected fruit in the orchard, consequently the fungicidal value of the sprays tested could not be evaluated. Fruit russeting showed up rather severely in a few schedules, and information was obtained along this line.

Two new copper sprays, applied at two-thirds the strength of Bordeaux 3:3:50 russeted fruit extensively.

Copper oxychloride 2:100, Bordeaux 6:24:100 and Bordeaux 6:6:100 also russeted, but to a lesser degree.

It is proposed to carry on the work during the coming season.

It was decided by the meeting that the question of compensation and proposals for the forthcoming season be dealt with by the Executive.

Shortage of Orchard Labor: In view of the serious shortage of experienced orchard labor it was decided to request the Minister for Labor, Mr. Holt, to establish a Training School for girls interested in land work, where principles of orchard work could be taught, the object being to absorb the girls, when trained, into the industry to relieve the labor position. Mr. W. A. Thiele offered his orchard in the above connection should it be required.

Advances on Next Year's Crop: It was decided that the Federal Government be asked to make financial advances to needy growers on next season's crop, to enable them to carry on.

Zoning of State: It was decided that the Association would support the Orchardists and Fruit Cool Stores Association and the Primary Producers' Defence League in its endeavour to bring about the zoning of the State for the purpose of appointing grower representatives to confer with Federal and State authorities on future occasions.

It is proposed that representatives for each zone be appointed on a proportional basis by ballot of registered growers. Each registered grower to have one vote. The Orchardists and Fruit Cool Stores Association to be the representative body of the fruit cool stores.

USEFUL CITRUS PUBLICITY.

The Melbourne "Herald" has rendered good service to the citrus industry by conducting an "Orange Appeal" for babies. At the time of going to press, about £500 has been subscribed, in addition to the donating of cases of Oranges by citizens desiring to help.

Apple and Pear Acquisition

THE JOINT PARLIAMENTARY COMMITTEE of Enquiry into Apple and Pear Acquisition concluded taking evidence in mid-August. Mr. W. P. Hutchinson, Chairman of the Victorian Committee Apple and Pear Marketing Board said that the zoning system reduced to a minimum the overlapping of fruit in transit, and this was an effective answer to critics who said that markets had been lost. From his own experience as a grower, and judging by the opinions expressed to him by other growers, the acquisition should be continued if the industry is to survive.

The last witnesses to be examined were executives of the Apple and Pear Marketing Board.

The Secretary, Mr. H. A. Baker, dealt with the setting up of the organisation and the necessary Committees in the several States, the shortness of the notice and the inevitable staff difficulties.

The estimated loss in 1940 in the handling of the Apple and Pear crop as a war-time measure was infinitesimal as compared with subsididies to other primary industries, even in peace time—sugar, butter, dried fruits, wine, wheat—apart from the incidence of sales tax, tariff, and excise duties.

Contrary to a general belief, very large quantities of fruit had been distributed to charitable organisations and schools. Government policy should determine the extent to which free giving should apply, but the financial reactions on Board returns should be taken into account and not used to criticise administration.

With regard to fruit not marketed, Mr. Baker stated that there was nothing unusual with regard to this matter, the only trouble was that the difficulties had been accentuated because of lack of export shipping space. In past years large quantities had not been marketed through not being harvested, the only difference under acquisition being that the growers were safeguarded in that varieties of fruit had been classified broadly according to their market value and growers were being paid advances whether the fruit was marketed or not.

Mr. Baker then quoted press reports, some of which were as follows:—

"Weekly Times," February 18, 1928: "Last week there was more fruit in the Melbourne Market than could be handled. The estimated carry-over was 25,000 cases. Large quantities of over-ripe Pears had to be sent to the rubbish tips. The loss to growers will be serious, especially in the case of those whose fruit has been destroyed, as freight and cartage amounting to about 6½d. on each case will have to be paid whether the fruit is a total loss or not."

The "Age," Saturday, March 17, 1928: "At 11 o'clock in the Western Market scarcely a buyer was present, and first quality Jonathan Apples did not command attention. Friday as a rule is one of the best selling days, but sellers yesterday spent their time gazing at stacks of fruit, for which they could secure few offers. Cases of 2¾ in. and 3 in. Jonathan Apples, which one merchant stated were almost suitable for exhibition purposes, were sold for 2/- per case. Pears may be said to be a drug on the market.

"Growers are strongly urged during the present condition of the market only to consign the highest grade qualities, and even then in limited quantities. The same conditions prevail in the Victoria Market; at the completion of Thursday morning's market, there was nearly enough fruit left over to meet the requirements of another day."

It is quite refreshing to me, Mr. Chairman (stated Mr. Baker) to read the "Age" advising growers only to consign the highest grade qualities and even then in limited quantities. To-day some sections of the press would interpret this state of affairs in headlines "Board only takes highest grade qualities—Thousands of cases left to rot under the trees."

The "Herald" on February 13, 1928, published a photograph of men throwing away fruit and printed underneath "The biggest Fruit Glut experienced in Victoria for Many Years has resulted in large quantities of fruit and Tomatoes being thrown away daily." Of course, this year it wouldn't read "Fruit, Tomatoes." It would be Apples and Pears, under a caption of "Apple and Pear Board Blunder."

The "Herald," February 14, 1928: "Inquiries among experts in the fruit trade to-day with a view to finding solution to distribution difficulties following gluts indicate that the greatest need in the industry is **co-operative sectional organisation amongst growers with some form of control at the marketing end."**

Summaries of other press extracts are as follows:—

The "Age," April 3, 1928: A correspondent wrote: — "Thousands of first grade Jonathans are being sold at 2/- and 3/- a case. Hundreds of growers are being forced off their holdings."

The "Age," April 26, 1928: "Thousands of cases of Jonathans are still on the trees.

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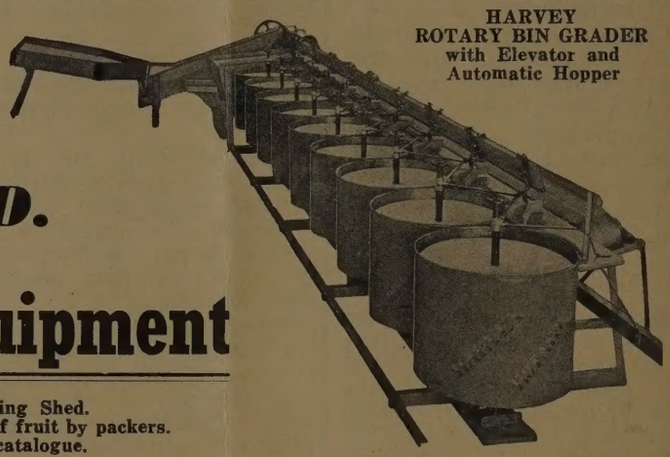

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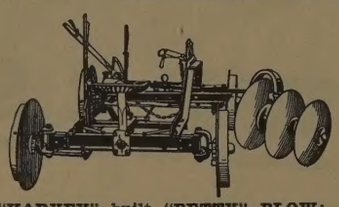

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Apple & Pear Acquisition — (Continued)

These should have been harvested a month ago, but prices are unpayable. Growers are awaiting returns from London—the future of the industry depends on export." (Comment: What would have been the position this year without control and no export?)

The "Sun," April 25, 1928: "Plenty of Apples but no demand resulted in big losses. Thousands of cases were carted to the rubbish tip." (Comment: Yet the markets of the world were open.)

"Leader," May 5, 1928: "The Harcourt store (capacity 80,000 cases) is full. Anything from 100,000 to 200,000 cases will not go into the store at all. The waste is enormous: in practically every orchard the ground is littered with Apples."

"Weekly Times," June 9, 1928: "Pears: The waste in orchards is estimated at 4,000 tons, or 20 per cent. of the total crop."

"Leader," March 10, 1928: "With Apples so plentiful and demand so small, growers are feeding them to cattle. Pears cannot be given away." (Comment: What about the poor and fruit-starved children?)

November, 1937: Fruitgrower, East Burwood, wrote:—"The 1937 crop was my best but I lost money on the year's trading. Others were in the same plight. The Victoria Market hopelessly glutted, lovely Jonathans bringing only 2/- a case and then we had to cart half the loads home." (Comment: What was done with them?)

Mr. Baker asked why the Apple and Pear surplus was singled out for adverse publicity when other products—primary and secondary—were in the same predicament. To quote only one instance: firewood was rotting in country and metropolitan districts through lack of trade facilities, and citizens were shivering with cold.

Mr. Baker tabled a series of statistical records setting out the activities of the Board.

Mr. H. W. Soothill, Deputy Chairman, Apple and Pear Marketing Board, stated that much of the evidence submitted by previous witnesses had not shown any appreciation of the fact that the existence of any values at all in Australian markets was due to the maintenance of export. Apple and Pear export was responsible for the existence of British refrigerated tonnage serving Australia—20,000,000 cub. ft. of refrigerated space was thus provided in 81 ships serving this trade for U.K. only—shipments to the East were additional. Other industries benefited by the tonnage made available.

Regarding costs of production—many small orchards were uneconomic, and in the aggregate the output was substantial. In the 1941 scheme, the main varieties were calculated on an all-Australian basis, but with some provision for variations between States, having regard to varietal values. In any future scheme this principle could be extended. Some revision is also required re early varieties.

The decision that for 1941 advances should be paid on delivered or deliverable fruit, while important as regards Government finance, has involved certain hardships to growers. In 1940 the crop losses subsequent to assessment were costly to the Government, but provided a valuable safeguard to the industry, serving largely to offset disadvantages in the rates of advances.

Misconceptions were caused in the minds of many people by the calculation of rates of advances in respect of bare fruit at tree. Growers usually value crops at per packed box, and the intermediate costs, including the labor of the grower, have rarely been accurately computed. The difference should be noted re genuine misconceptions and deliberate adverse propaganda. The Board at no time authorised restriction of picking dates.

Regarding non-scheduled varieties—the Industry Conference at Canberra approved of the exclusion of these subject to the provision of compensation for re-working or elimination. An early decision was anticipated, thus to save growing costs, The first decision of the Government did not provide for unscheduled varieties, although the question had been pressed by the Board. The Government subsequently decided to provide 1/- per tree for Apples and 1/6 per tree for Pears (or £5 to £7/10/- per acre). This decision was criticised on the grounds that growing costs had been incurred. It should be noted, however, that this compensation is not conditional upon re-working or elimination.

Mr. Soothill gave detailed information re administrative and operative methods and mentioned difficulties in securing trained staffs. Administrative costs were fractional. With a turnover of £4,000,000, administrative costs last year were 1.8 per cent.

In some instances growers were under a disability when heavy deliveries were needed. Great difficulty was experienced in arranging interstate transfers of fruit, particularly with certain types of ships and periods of delivery. But in the absence of a comprehensive plan the position would have been worse. Cool storage was obtained to best advantage, but the limited cool store space in Sydney, Brisbane, and Tasmania accentuated difficulties.

Double the usual quantity of Apples was dried this season. The canned Apple and Apple juice trade had been developed. The principal by-products include cider, brandy, jellies, apple spreads, vinegar, concentrated Apple juice, sauces, and pomace as a basis for stock foods. Apples for stock feed were regarded as in "by-products" category.

After detailing methods of distribution in cities and in the country, wholesale and retail markets, free distributions, etc., Mr. Soothill deplored the organised adverse propaganda which was detrimental to the industry at large. **This propaganda was the more regrettable because it did not represent the views of the majority of the growers in any State;** it was surprising that some press authorities did not sift evidence instead of adopting the policy "controversy is news." The Broadcasting Commission included in its national news selections of poisonous and prejudiced attacks on the Board, thus assisting to embarrass Commonwealth finance; hundreds of thousands of pounds had thus been lost through depression of prices. A few State politicians had also forgotten their dignity and without due enquiry had lent themselves to a type of criticism in respect of a scheme created by the Commonwealth Government as a war-time emergency to preserve a national industry.

Of the total Apple sales for the year 60 per cent. are in the period prior to June 30, when low prices ruled; since only one-third of the total is sold subsequently and probably little more than a quarter after the end of July, higher prices later could not make up the leeway. Yet 1/- increase in the wholesale price (representing ¼d. to ½d. per lb.) would mean on a 7,000,000 turnover an increase of £350,000.

In any future scheme two to three months were needed for preparation. Apart from the benefit of an early decision for devising operating plans, a decision was needed in order that cases, packing materials, etc., could be secured. The problem of securing labor for orchard work, transport, etc., was becoming increasingly difficult; this must be recognised even as regards the quantity of fruit available to consumers.

In conclusion, Mr. Soothill paid a tribute to the ability and honesty of purpose of the Chairman, Mr. J. B. Mills.

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Mr. J. B. Mills, Chairman of the Apple and Pear Marketing Board detailed the history of the commencement of the Acquisition plan following the cessation of export due to the war. He stated that credit was threatened and that panic would have been created if an industry with a product so highly perishable, were left with a large unsaleable surplus, and no marketing system available to handle that surplus. Many plans were considered before the present acquisition system was decided upon.

After dealing with the administration plans, Mr. Mills said that problems were encountered—

(1) Abnormal dropping of fruit in 1940, due to the heat wave throughout Australia. Payment was made to growers for 3,000,000 bushels of fruit which did not reach the market.

(2) Acquisition Date: As acquisition was due to commence on March 1, 1940, many growers harvested immature fruit, rushed it on to the market, and by intensive canvassing, stocked up greengrocers' shops before March 1. The market felt this impact for several weeks.

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Apple and Pear Acquisition — (Continued)

(3) Illegal Trading: "Bootlegging" was carried on fairly extensively, and a considerable time elapsed before this problem was brought under control. In the meantime the finances of the scheme suffered.

(4) Opposition: Although evidence is available that the great majority of growers desired, and still desire, the acquisition scheme, there is a small minority opposed to it. Obstructive tactics and undue publicity aroused public hostility which nullified to some extent the educational publicity and marketing plans for increasing the consumption of Apples and Pears.

(5) Breakdown: Large quantities of fruit on mainland markets, particularly from Tasmania in a weak condition, made market control difficult and a low price complex was created.

1941 Acquisition.

New features were introduced into the 1941 acquisition plan, including appraisement, varietal grouping, tree measurement and bushel equivalents.

Comparison Between 1940 and 1941 Schemes.

In the 1940 scheme advances were made at a flat rate per case. Although this caused some dissatisfaction in States where production was low and consumption high, it conformed to the Govemnement's policy of no differentiation between States. The 1940 system possessed simplicity in accounting not possible under the 1941 scheme. The difficulty of accounting and making payments under the system of appraisement, varietal grouping, tree measurement and bushel equivalent procedure caused some individual discontent, but simplification of procedure was essential, with differential payment for harvested as against non-harvested fruit. The endeavor has been made under temporary wartime procedure, to solve ever-recurring marketing problems which existed—war or no war. If the scheme continues, no doubt a marketing plan would be evolved to permanently benefit the growers.

In its merchandising plans for Apples and Pears, the Board was faced with marketing nearly twice as much fruit as had ever been previously stored and sold in Australia. As storage space was seriously insufficient, the endeavor was made to move as much of the surplus into consumption in the "intake" period at prices which, while not giving a full recovery of costs, would ensure some return against the advances made. But adverse propaganda regarding prices and wastage was harmful. In reality, full provision was made for charitable institutions to completely fill their requirements. The dangers of a "low value complex" among the public must be avoided.

One of the major benefits of the scheme had been the bringing together of all sections of the industry in all the States with the common objective, i.e., the successful marketing of the Apple and Pear crop. An Australian-wide organisation had been set up capable of dealing efficiently with interstate as well as local problems.

Restriction of production had been proposed as an alternative method. While at first sight removal of fruit in the blossoming period appeared to be the most economical form of crop restriction, it was difficult to "make a bargain with Nature." Thrips, frost and hail storms and other causes has wrought great damage in the past, and the Government would be in an invidious position if, after paying for the defruiting of the presumed surplus, the markets were left insufficient for normal requirements.

The reworking or elimination of unwanted varieties would, if adopted, afford some permanent stability to the industry.

Hail insurance was important, but efforts to finance such under the acquisition scheme had failed because of legal difficulties. Unless each State Government enforced compulsory hail insurance, the only other way was a compulsory deduction from payments to growers to underwrite hail insurance through insurance companies or to establish with the deduction a compensation pool. The sum of £100,000 was deemed sufficient.

Cool storage space throughout Australia was arranged for to best advantage, but problems exist regarding sufficient cool storage space because of the needs of other commodities higher on the priority list.

In conclusion, Mr. Mills stated that in his opinion the Government had, through the acquisition scheme, attained its chief objective, viz., the stabilisation of the industry and the retention of the growers on their properties, despite the loss of overseas markets.

Mr. W. M. Carne, Commonwealth Fruit Officer, gave detailed information concerning varieties, grades, etc., also particulars regarding by-products from Apples. Tests had shown that Apples had only a low value as regards power alcohol. Tests were being made with the extraction of malic acid and malonic acid, which, if successful, would be exceedingly valuable.

Mr. H. A. Stevenson, Superintendent N.S.W. Committee, Apple and Pear Board, in giving evidence before the Committee of Inquiry, stated that an urgent need was for more cool storage space. In Sydney, accommodation for at least another 100,000 cases was needed. Mr. Stevenson stated that the Newcastle market had absorbed 50 per cent. more this year than previously. He attacked the press for their "unfair and inaccurate" criticism of the scheme. A low market complex had been created which would have an adverse effect in future seasons, irrespective of acquisition.

Mr. A. W. Weymark, wholesale fruit merchant, Sydney, said there was more waste this year than last year. Supplies of Apples and Pears in Sydney had been small in comparison with the demands of the markets. Permission had been sought from the Minister for Commerce for permission to import Apples from Canada.

Mr. H. V. Smith, Chairman N.S.W. Committee, said the standard of packing was as high this year as ever it had been. He congratulated Tasmanians on the excellence of their packing. Adverse press publicity had depressed prices.

At a meeting of fruitgrowers held at Tyabb (Vic.), on August 22, 1941, Mr. E. W. Greenwood, urged the formation of a voluntary pool for Apples and Pears. He stated that an equitable system under compulsory acquisition was impossible because of the highly perishable nature of the product. The present system had removed all growers from the growers' selling section of the Victoria Market.

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A meeting was held on August 29 at Dandenong, when phases of the Apple and Pear Acquisition were discussed. Hon. G. L. Chandler, Hon. C. L. Isaac, M's.L.C., Messrs. W. H. Everard, M.L.A., and E. W. Greenwood, were the speakers.

POWER TO RE-ACQUIRE FRUIT.

Power to re-acquire fruit has been given to the Apple and Pear Board by an amending regulation issued at the end of July. This is considered necessary to enable the Board to circumvent possible trafficking after Apples and Pears acquired by it have left its hands. The power will be exercised by the Chairman or Deputy Chairman where necessary.

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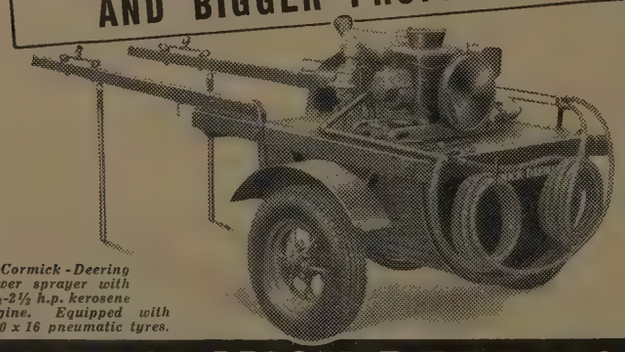

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Meeting at Frankston

At a meeting of protest against Apple and Pear acquisition held at Frankston, Vic., on August 18 Mr. W. H. Everard said growers should have the right to sell their fruit in their own way. The Minister for Agriculture (Mr. Hogan) was "Board mad."

Mr. H. S. Tainton said the acquisition scheme was a ramp. Growers were being conscripted and the country was being ruined by dictators.

Mr. A. J. Noble said that thousands of cases of good fruit had gone to waste. Members of the Defence League strongly favored a voluntary pool next season.

Other speakers included Col. J. S. Lazarus, Messrs. T. Barclay, R. Clark, E. D. Butler and J. M. Atkinson.

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There was a press discussion in the local paper, "The Frankston and Mornington Standard." Mr. R. J. Mair wrote:—

"I suppose it is human nature to pick out the tit-bits we like and leave what we do not like. This is evident in Mrs. Serpell's letter re price received by the Board and that paid to the grower, viz., 3/6 and 11/-.

"The price, 11/-, is for Delicious Apples—a small line. The price for Jonathan main stock in trade is 10/6. The average of the lower price being charged by the Board for most of the season is 6/-. You get an average return to the Board of approximately 7/6. From the grower's end he gets 3/6 plus service charges (if he cares to take advantage of it) of packing, cartage, stacking and case hire, bringing the total sum to 4/2.

"If he were marketing himself, he would have to pay carrige 1/3, cool storage 1/4, shrinkage and waste in store, approximately 6d. So he would have to get 7/3 all the year round to receive as much as he does from the Board. Considering during the flush, fruit would have been practically valueless, and a grower (probably due to his lack of intelligence) has some reason in thinking he is not getting a bad deal under the circumstances."

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Among other correspondence, the following were noticed:—

"Fruitgrower" supported acquisition and challenged the truthfulness of opponents when nett and "dear" prices paid by the Board were invariably compared with gross prices in the markets. Mr. L. Johnson (Langwarrin) opposed acquisition, stating that all men should be free to dispose of the products of their labor when and where they thought fit. Mr. W. P. Mair stated that 85 per cent. of the Tyabb growers had signed a petition requesting continuation of the present acquisition.

The New Zealand Fruit Industry

Alternative to Acquisition.

AS A CONTRIBUTION to the discussions relative to the future of fruit industry in New Zealand, Mr. H. E. Napier, at one time Manager of the N.Z. Fruitgrowers' Federation and Secretary of the Fruit Board, has put forward some suggestions which are described by the "Orchardist of N.Z." (in which paper the article appears) as "thought provoking." But no responsibility is accepted for the views expressed.

Mr. Napier traverses the experiences following the last war—high prices for Apples in U.K., freight 8/- per case, and visualises the lapse of several years before shipping returns to normal, even after the end of the war—which no one can foresee.

A Five Year Plan.

He proposed to reduce production of Apples in N.Z. by 750,000 cases, and allow the market to automatically adjust itself. (The present scheme is estimated to be costing about £250,000 per annum.) He then deals with low valued varieties, marginal orchards, and continues:—

Eliminate this poor fruit and clean up the uneconomic orchard or variety and the N.Z. problem is solved for at least five years—maybe for ever.

On the Government purchase price this year the grower is probably receiving for his fruit an average of 2/- per case clear. With an average production of 1½ bushels of marketable fruit per tree the value per tree is 3/- per annum.

There are probably 4,000 acres of low producing orchards and poor and unwanted varieties scattered through the Dominion and, in addition, some orchards on land more suitable for other production. In many areas hundreds of acres could be grafted over with advantage and as grafted trees will be four or five years coming back into production they are temporarily at least out of reckoning.

On the basis of 3/- per tree for compensation each grower working over to something more profitable and in demand on either export or local markets would receive 12/- per tree compensation for each tree grafted.

Where the trees are rooted out a premium of 50 per cent. could well be granted, which would mean 18/- per tree for cutting right out. Apply these figures to an orchard of 10 acres, planted 130 trees to the acre, and the compensation would be as follows:—

If Grafted—1,300 trees at 12/- each = £780.

If Uprooted—1,300 trees at 18/- each = £1,170.

If 4,000 acres were dealt with the number of trees at 130 trees to the acre producing 1½ bushels each would mean a reduction in production of 780,000 cases.

The total cost on a 50/50 basis grafting and cutting out would be £390,000. The area under producing orchard would be reduced by approximately 20 per cent. to 25 per cent.

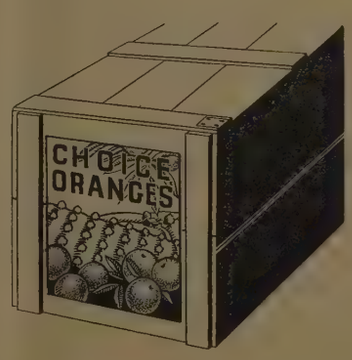
Apple and Pear Board's Fruit Shop Competition—Mr. W. Sankey's Shop at Bondi, N.S.W., 1st Prize, Group 1.

Saving to the State.

The conclusions are obvious. For an expenditure of £390,000 the Government would avoid a total expenditure of over £1,000,000 spread over a period of 4 years; in other words, a saving of probably £750,000, and the stability of the industry assured.

It will be realised that the whole proposal presupposes that the Government will not be called on for further assistance after the compensation is paid. In fact, by the reduction in quantity those remaining in the industry should be self-supporting, and by a continuation of the educative advertising campaign consumption could be increased. The Government offer would have to be held open for two years to give growers who don't come in during the first year the opportunity of doing so after a season's experience of the altered conditions.

The marketing of the fruit would become the responsibility of the grower, either individually or collectively—that would be for him to decide. That alone would mean another very substantial saving in Go-



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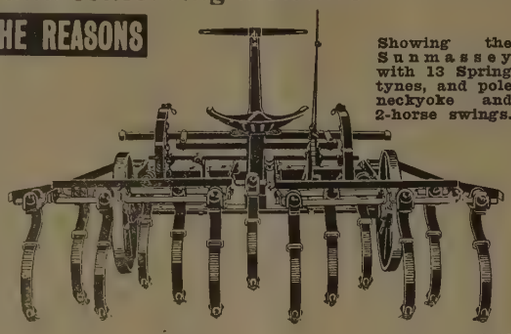

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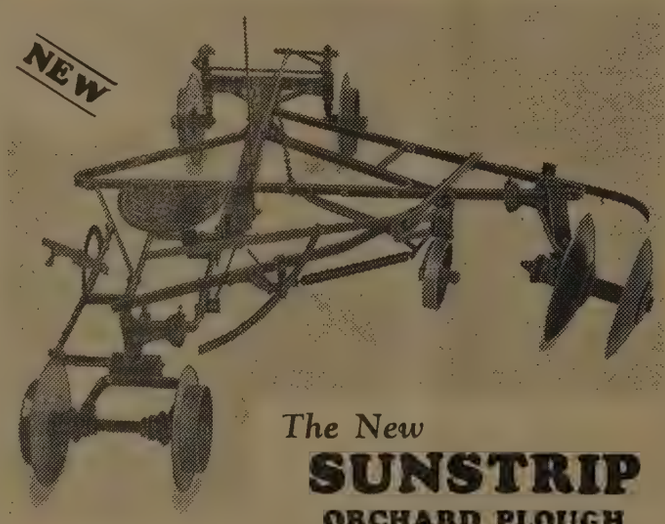

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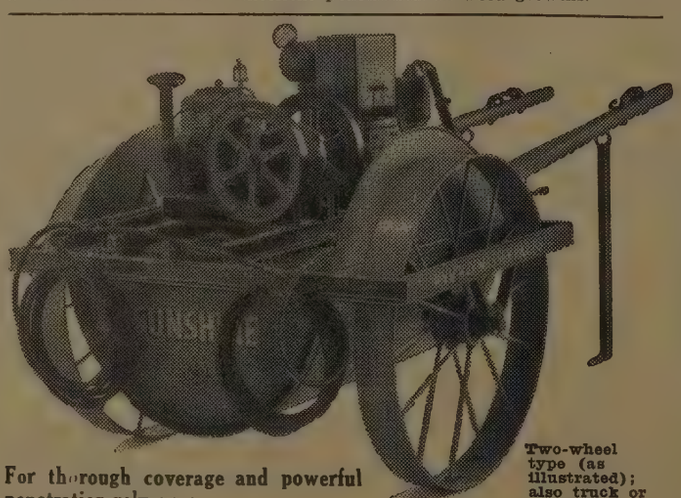

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Western Australian Orchards

Black Spot Outbreak Controlled.

Apple and Pear Acquisition Supported.

A REVIEW of the 1940-41 season was given at the recent annual meeting of the Albany and District Fruitgrowers' Association by the President, Mr. L. L. Hill, M.L.A.

Growers, he said, had operated under war conditions for the period, and the **Apple and Pear acquisition scheme had enabled the industry to survive.** Growers in the Albany, Denmark and Mt. Barker areas were more dependent upon the export trade than any in Australia, and only the Commonwealth scheme had saved them from disaster, despite the fact that it was by no means 100 per cent. in its application.

A pleasing feature of the season, said Mr. Hill, was the **absence of Black Spot,** or Apple Scab, which was so severe in the previous season. The Agricultural Department had drastic powers to deal with such outbreaks, but growers had to also thank Captain A. E. Douglas, Mr. A. E. Maxton and Douglas and Sons for the hard work and expense they incurred in stamping out the pest. The State Fruitgrowers' Association had assisted growers financially, but heavy demands had seriously depleted funds. **The Association was unanimously of opinion that legislation should be introduced to enable contributions from payments to growers to be made in order to provide funds for the work of the Association;** and the executive was formulating proposals for the purpose. **Fruit Fly** had been discovered at that end of the State, but they should be able to stamp it out there.

(Continued from page 13.)

vernment expenditure because the expensive organisation of the Internal Marketing Department would be unnecessary.

The clean-up that would take place would put the New Zealand orchard industry in a first-class position to take advantage of any export market which might open up after the war, and every case shipped would be worth the valuable space it occupied.

It is better to ship overseas half a million cases which show a real profit than to ship a million cases that average only the bare cost of production. New Zealand would soon become famous for only first-class fruit, and this reputation would soon ensure a premium. This is a national problem which is only a small part of the reconstructon which this Dominion must face sooner or later.

WESTERN AUSTRALIA

VALUABLE APPLE PUBLICITY.

The W.A. Committee of the Australian Apple and Pear Marketing Board is continuing its useful Apple publicity programme. Included among their activities are the following:—

School Cookery Week.

Following the recent successful Cookery Week, which received wide support and much publicity, arrangements have now been completed with the Education Department for a School Cookery Week among the State School Domestic Science Classes in the Metropolitan Area. The dishes to be cooked are to be taken from the recipe books provided by the Board and these will be supplied to each student. The classrooms are to be decorated with appropriate Apple posters. In all some 1,700 girls will participate in the Apple cooking instruction.

"V" for Victory Stickers.

Small stickers were provided showing the letter "V" intersecting an Apple and containing the words "Vitamins for Victory —Eat More Apples." So well were these stickers received by all fruit retailers that it was decided to obtain a similar sticker, size 9 in. x 6 in., for window display.

School Lectures.

A feature is also being made of giving addresses to school children. At the East Perth Girls' School the Apple Song was particularly well sung by more than 600 students after the lecture.

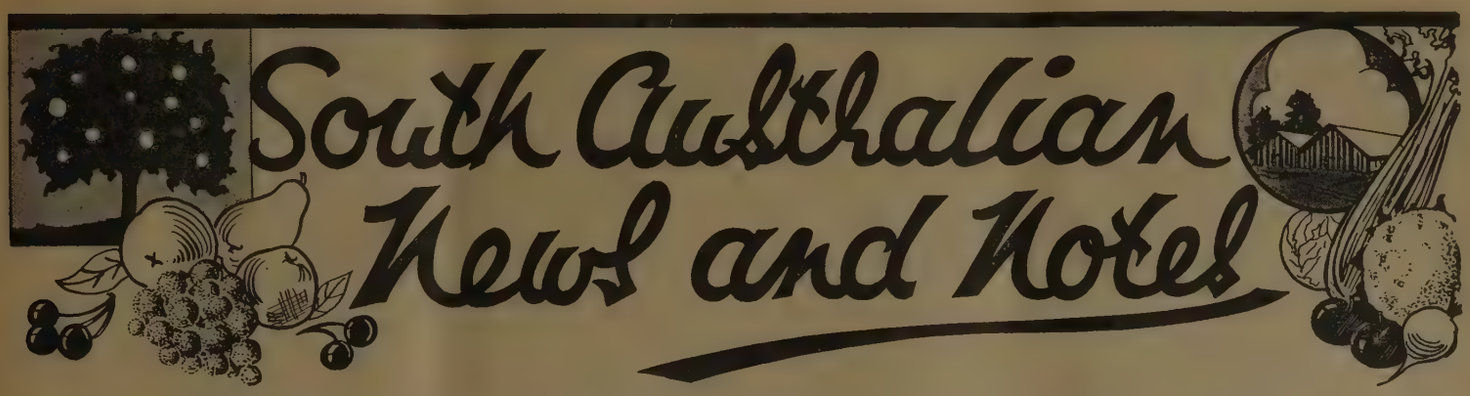
W.A. DRIED FRUITS BOARD.

A meeting of the Dried Fruits Board of W.A. was held in mid-July. Present: Messrs. A. H. Dickson (Chairman), L. W. Ham, H. E. Feutrill, and G. McD. Edgecombe.

Ohanez Grapes: Following the receipt of letters concerning the production of Ohanez Grapes from the Australian Dried Fruits Association and the Consultative Committee of Dried Fruits Board, the Secretary was directed to state that such fruit was grown in W.A. in fairly large quantities for export sale as fresh fruit and the whole of the production available was disposed of accordingly; also that the fruit did not contain sufficient sugar contents for drying purposes.

1941 Export: A report was received from the Commonwealth D.F. Export Control Board that the sales to the United Kingdom (33,070 tons), Canada (19,597 tons), and New Zealand (6,149 tons), and other overseas countries would absorb practically the whole of the exportable surplus of this season's pack of Australian Currants, Sultanas and Lexias.

Illicit Trading: Regarding a recent instance of alleged illicit trading, the Secretary was instructed to confer with the Board's solicitors as to a breach of the Dried Fruits Act and regulations.



Official Reports and Notes of the South Australian Fruitgrowers' and Market Gardeners' Association

S.A. Fruitgrowers and Market Gardeners' Association Incorp.

THE Executive Committee of the above Association met in the Board Room, 288a Rundle-street, Adelaide, on Friday, August 29, 1941.

Present: Mr. H. N. Wicks (President), Mr. C. J. Pitt (Vice-President); Messrs. H. B. Robson, M. Georgeff, M. G. Hannaford, H. F. Lock, M. Packer, J. D. Yeatman, O. Essalbach, J. Turner, A. O. Petersen, G. H. Schultz, L. B. Pfeiffer, J. B. Randell, W. H. Ind, R. B. Pritchard, H. W. Parsons, C. J. Pitt, F. A. Wicks, L. J. Wicks, W. J. Bishop, C. H. Ragless, C. W. Giles, W. Wye, R. A. Cramond, A. G. Strickland (Chief Horticulturist).

Apologies: Received from Messrs. N. T. Hobbs, L. G. Pethick and S. M. James.

Minutes of July meeting read and confirmed.

Petrol Rationing: Mr. H. N. Wicks reported that the Petrol Sub-Committee had waited on the Liquid Fuel Control Board, and arrangements had been made whereby the Association could assist growers in securing sufficient petrol for the marketing of their produce. Mr. Wicks pointed out that investigations necessary would throw much additional work on the shoulders of the Secretary, therefore the sub-committee recommended the appointment of an assistant secretary.

Mr. L. J. Wicks moved: "That the action of the Petrol Sub-Committee be endorsed." Seconded Mr. O. Essalbach. Carried.

Mr. W. J. Bishop moved: "That the Executive appoint an Assistant Secretary." Seconded Mr. M. Packer. Carried.

Resolved that the Exporting Sections be approached with the view of meeting the additional expense.

Correspondence: Letter from Wholesale Fruit Merchants of Adelaide Ltd., enclosing press cutting re the action of the City Council concerning the speed of trams past the East End Market on market days.

Mr. L. J. Wicks moved: "That the Association join with the Merchants' Association in its endeavors to have the danger removed." Seconded Mr. H. B. Robson. Carried.

Letter from the Premier of South Australia enclosing copies of correspondence to and from the Metropolitan and Ex-Export Abattoirs Board re the price of manures.

Mr. W. J. Bishop moved: "That the letter be received and acknowledged." Seconded Mr. L. B. Pfeiffer. Carried.

Pay Roll Tax: The President reported that he and the Secretary had waited on the Deputy Federal Commissioner of Taxation and discussed with him the effect of the Pay Roll Tax on Primary Producers. The inability of the Department to grant an exemption to growers was pointed out, the matter, if justified, being political and not departmental.

Resolved that the report of the President be received.

Sectional and Branch Reports.

Marion Branch: Mr. H. W. Parsons reported that the August meeting was the Annual General Meeting, when the President of the Association and Mr. W. J. Bishop attended. All Branch officers were re-elected, and several new members were enrolled.

Barossa Branch: Mr. H. F. Lock reported that at present there was nothing of importance to bring forward.

Onkaparinga Potato Branch: Mr. L. B. Pfeiffer reported that owing to district circumstances, the Annual Meeting of the Branch had been deferred until September.

Cudlee Creek Branch: Mr. R. B. Pritchard reported that all branch operations were proceeding satisfactorily.

Apple and Pear Section: Mr. R. B. Pritchard reported that some sheds were rowing Apples and others were not. This undoubtedly advanced the sales of Apples, and he considered representations should be made either to make the practice universal or an extra processing advance made for fruit so put up. After discussion, Mr. Pritchard moved: "That it be a recommendation to the State Committee that a higher processing price be paid for rowed in fruit." Seconded Mr. J. Turner. Carried.

Mr. J. B. Randell stated that Mr. Rodney Fowler, manager of the Government Experimental Orchard at Blackwood, was shortly to retire, and he considered that under present circumstances, and the value of Mr. Fowler's services to the industry, the retention of his services was desirable.

Mr. J. B. Randell moved: "That in view of present circumstances representation be made to the Department of Agriculture for the retention of Mr. Fowler's services." Seconded Mr. C. Ragless. Carried.

Citrus Section: Mr. F. A. Wicks reported that market conditions for Oranges were very good. Supplies were short, and prices being realised were the best for some years at this time of the season. The Lemon market was weak, and sales consequently were slow.

Cherry Section: Mr. W. J. Bishop reported that the Cherry Committee had met during August, and preliminary arrangements for the coming season were made.

Fruitgrowers' Society: Mr. W. J. Bishop reported that the Annual Meeting of shareholders had been fixed for Friday, September 26, at 2 p.m.

Apricot Manurial Trial At Light Pass

(By H. K. Kemp, B.Sc. (Agric.) Horticultural Research Officer in the S.A. Journal of Agric.)

A FIELD experiment on the manuring of Apricot trees — variety, Moorpark—has been carried out in the Light Pass district over the last five years. Since 1934, nitrogenous and phosphatic fertilizers have been applied to plots on the property of Mr. P. Boehm, and the experiment has been concluded this season after the accumulation of the results from six years' application. This experiment was originally established by Nitrogen Fertilizers of Australia Proprietary Limited in co-operation with the Department of Agriculture, but since 1937 the work has been carried on by the Department.

Environment.

The test trees are located about one mile north of the Light Pass Public School, on soil typical of the red land of the Barossa Valley. In profile the soil shows a sandy loam topsoil extending to 15in., the top 6in. to 8in. being humified. At 15in. the sandy loam merges into a friable, dark brown clay, which becomes heavier at depth, with scattered limey vesicles appearing below 2ft. 6in.

The average rainfall on this property is approximately 20in. per annum. At Stockwell, about one mile north of the experimental plots, an average total annual rainfall of 19.87in. has been recorded over 57 years. At Nuriootpa, approximately two miles south-west of the block, the average has been 20.80in. over 57 years. Typical of the northern areas of this State, the total rainfall shows a very considerable variation from season to season. This is shown very markedly in the records for Stockwell and Nuriootpa since 1925, the year in which the trees were planted. The total annual rainfall records and the monthly rainfall recordings during the period of test are presented in Table I.

Trees.

At the present time the trees are 15 years old from planting. Before the orchard was set out, the land had been cropped with cereals for a long period, and it is probable that it has been subjected to only mixed, dry farming practice, with predominance of cereal culture since first be-

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ing cleared of the original red gum scrub.

The trees have been exceptionally well cared for and trained to the open centre vase form, with the fairly heavy annual Winter pruning which has become characteristic of this district. Except for occasional trees affected with Crown Gall (Ps. tumefaciens) they are unusually even, although there is a slight tendency to smaller stature to the north-western corner of the block where the soil tends lighter in texture.

Table I.—Total Annual Rainfall at Nuriootpa and Stockwell since 1925.

Records from the Commonwealth Meteorological Bureau.

Season.	Nuriootpa. in.	Stockwell. in.
1925	14.88	15.94
1926	18.38	17.80
1927	16.55	16.56
1928	16.76	16.11
1929	16.72	15.06
1930	18.79	18.63
1931	21.81	18.99
1932	24.45	22.21
1933	20.94	18.71
1934	18,78	15.59
1935	23.86	19.13
1936	22.02	18.08
1937	21.40	19.61
1938	18.76	13.92
1939	23.82	20.41
1940	15.11	13.76

Average: Nuriootpa (57 years), 20.80in.; Stockwell (53 years), 19.87in.

Treatments.

The aim of the trial was to determine whether nitrogen applications in the form of sulphate of ammonia, with or without the addition of phosphoric acid in the form of super, were profitable under the dry farming conditions of this district, where moisture supply is frequently the crop limiting factor. Plot treatments were as follow: A, unmanured; B, sulphate of ammonia, 3 lb. per tree; C, sulphate of ammonia plus super, 45 per cent. W.S.P., each 3 lb. per tree.

In the third season of the experiment, treatment C was modified by substituting 7 lb. of a proprietary mixed fertilizer 2:2:1, containing 2 parts of sulphate of ammonia, 2 parts of 45 per cent. super, and 1 part of sulphate of potash by weight. This considerably simplified the application of fertilizers.

Three plots each of four trees were manured under each treatment, the layout being of the randomized block type (shown in the plan of the experiment). The trees of barrier rows between plots received the same fertilizer application as the plot trees on the half adjacent, and corner trees received quarter dressings on the appropriate sector.

During the period of test, Crown Gall appeared on two of the experimental trees, one each in treatments A and B. These trees have been excluded from the records, so that the mean figures given for these treatments are drawn from 11 trees only as compared with 12 trees under treatment C.

Application of Fertilizer.

The fertilizer was broadcast by hand over the area of the branch spread, immediately prior to the Spring ploughing, and just before budburst. The whole dressing was applied in one application, the amount for each tree being weighed and spread separately over a circle of about 2ft. diameter greater than the spread of the branches.

Records.

The crop of fresh fruit from each tree was weighed as the picking buckets were emptied. These records form the basis of all the yield data following. Dried fruit yields and returns have been calculated through a drying ratio of 5:1 and a figure of £84 per ton of dried fruit, the latter being a merchant's estimate of the average price received for dried Apricots by growers in this district over the period of the experiment.

The weight of prunings removed from each tree was recorded at each Winter pruning.

Both the fresh fruit yields and the pruning weights have been examined for significance of difference due to treatments, using Fisher's analysis of variance and the Z test.

RESULTS OF FERTILIZER APPLICATION.

Yield of Fresh Fruit.

Plots Receiving Sulphate of Ammonia: A significant increase in the crop was obtained during the first season in the case of plots receiving sulphate of ammonia only—17 cwt. more fresh fruit per acre was obtained than from unmanured trees. In 1935-36, the second year of experiment, 2¼ tons per acre increase in the crop was obtained on plots receiving sulphate of ammonia. In 1936-37 a heavy Spring frost at blossoming limited the crop and apparently eradicated differences between manurial treatments. In the following year, although the crop on these trees was slightly heavier than on the unmanured plots, the difference was not significant. In 1938-39 increased yield was again recorded, 1 ton 11½ cwt. more fruit per acre being harvested from trees which had received sulphate of ammonia than from the trees which received no fertilizer. In the final year of the test, drought conditions constituted a limiting factor, and differences between the treatments were not significant.

Over the period of six years of test, applications of sulphate of ammonia gave significantly increased yields in three seasons. Averaged over the whole period the yields of these trees show an increased return of 17 cwt. per acre of fresh fruit. On the calculated return from dried fruit this is an increase in the gross return over the whole period of £81 per acre, or £13/10/- per acre per year.

Plots Receiving Mixed Fertilizer: Not until the second season did the trees which received sulphate of ammonia and super show significant increase in crop, and even in this season the yield was less than that from the plots which received sulphate of ammonia only. In the third season the harvest from all of the plots was approximately equal, presumably due to frost in early Spring. In 1937-38, however, when the sulphate of ammonia plots showed no significant difference in yield as compared with unmanured plots, a large crop was harvested from the complete manure plots, which yielded 1 ton 17 cwt. more fresh fruit per acre than the sulphate of ammonia plots and 2¼ tons per acre more than the plots receiving no manure.

In 1938-39 the crops from both the series of manured plots were of similar dimensions. The crop from the complete manure plots was slightly lighter, less than that from sulphate of ammonia plots, probably as a result of the very heavy crop of the previous season. Plots under both treatments returned about 1½ tons more fresh fruit per acre than the unmanured plots. In the final year of the test, drought limited the yield, and no significant differences between treatments were recorded. Significantly increased yield was not obtained until the second season with complete fertilizer, but despite the later start, this treatment also has given increased yield sufficient to pass the test for statistical significance in three of the six seasons over which the test has been conducted. Over the whole period of test mixed fertilizer shows an advantage of 1 ton 3 cwt. increase as compared with 17 cwt. per acre increase in the fresh fruit per acre from the plots receiving sulphate of ammonia only. The increase in gross return from complete manuring over the whole period of the test has been £110/0/6, an average of £18/6/8 per acre per year.

(To Be Continued)

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THE SOUTH AUSTRALIAN FRUIT MARKETING ASSOCIATION INC.

September Meetings.

The September meetings of the Association will be held at the Secretary's office, 83/4 Brookman Buildings, Grenfell-street, Adelaide, on Friday, September 26, 1941.

Growers' Sub-Committee commencing at 1.45 p.m.

Speaker: Mr. H. B. Pritchard.

Subject: "Causes of Pears not setting."

Executive Committee Meeting will commence at 2.45 p.m.

E. WHITFIELD MILLS,
Secretary.

Sth. Aust. Fruit Marketing Association

THE monthly meeting of the Executive of the S.A.F.M.A. was held at Adelaide on August 29. There were present: Messrs. J. B. Randell (chairman), A. G. Strickland, R. B. Pritchard, R. Fowler, F. F. Redden, A. O. Petersen, L. G. Heading, G. S. Queale, S. M. James, R. A. Cramond, H. N. Wicks, M. J. Vickers, R. H. A. Lewis, G. Mack, P. R. B. Searcy, R. G. Hannaford, C. L. Winzer, D. W. Hannaford, M. G. Basey, H. M. Charlick, L. J. Bishop, and the Secretary.

The Association's Future.

There was a lengthy discussion regarding the continuance of the S.A.F.M.A. Several members favored continuance on the present basis, and co-operation with the Sth. Aust. Fruitgrowers and Market Gardeners' Association, and would not admit there was overlapping and duplication of effort. A resolution favoring quarterly instead of monthly meetings was lost, and a resolution in favor of separate meetings of growers and shippers lapsed for want of a seconder. It was decided to continue the monthly meetings of the Growers' Sub-Committee.

Mr. R. Fowler's Services.

It was decided to request the Minister of Agriculture that the services of Mr. R. Fowler as Manager of the Government Experimental Orchard be retained for the duration of the war.

Mr. Fowler was unanimously elected a life member of the Association.

Marketing Costs.

Mr. F. F. Redden said a reduction of costs was necessary. A reversion to methods prior to acquisition would be of benefit to producers and consumers. Shortage of labor was an additional problem. It was decided to request the State Acquisition Committee that the present requirements in regard to "rowing in" of fruit for local market be eliminated.

Shortage of Fertilizers.

Mr. A. G. Strickland drew attention to the serious shortage of fertilizers, and the necessity for the Apple and Pear industry to receive a proper proportion of the rationed quota.

S.A.F.M.A. GROWERS' SUB-COMMITTEE.

Black Spot Control.

There was a good attendance at the Growers' Sub-Committee meeting on August 29, Mr. J. B. Randell presided.

Mr. A. G. Strickland, M.Ag.Sc., Chief Horticulturist, described the two stages of the Black Spot fungus (1) parasitic when living on the tree, (2) through the Winter, the spores living on fallen leaves. If the primary infection could be controlled the disease throughout season could be controlled and the green tip spray was the most important.

Dried Fruits Industry in South Australia

Efficient Dehydration Plants :: Interstate Co-ordination :: Valuable Publicity Methods :: Restriction of Planting Advised :: Annual Report of Sth. Aust. Dried Fruits Board.

THE TWELFTH REPORT of the South Australian Dried Fruits Board for the year ended February 28, 1941, is just to hand. Extracts from the report are as follow:—

The total pack for the season 1940 was:—

Dried Vine Fruits.

	Tons.
Currants	10,437
Sultanas	12,209
Lexias	2,850
	25,496

Dried Tree Fruits.

	Tons.
Prunes	579
Peaches	267
Apricots	1,395
Nectarines	35
Pears	341
	2,617

The season 1940 was one of record production for the Commonwealth, viz., 100,474 tons, which is 2,675 tons in excess of the peak year of 1938 (97,799 tons).

Efficient dehydrating plants are now installed in all the larger packing houses, and their use has proved a valuable safeguard against damage resulting from adverse climatic conditions.

The exportable surplus of dried vine fruits (Currants, Sultanas and Lexias) for the season 1940 was 76,820 tons — 76.457 per cent. of the total production. The fact that this record tonnage was actually shipped by December 31, 1940, under war conditions, is not only abundant proof of the value of orderly marketing, but also demonstrates the efficiency of the work of the Commonwealth Dried Fruits Control Board.

Through collaboration with Boards in the other States, uniformity was established with regard to home consumption quotas and other matters.

Collaboration with the trade resulted in increased sales from 10 per cent. to 20 per cent. storekeepers were stocking the better grades.

Valuable Publicity.

Co-ordinated activity by the State Boards was conducted by a Committee representing all State Boards and the A.D.F.A. The programme includes radio talks, window displays, show exhibits, recipe books, tramway advertising, etc. An important part of the Committee's activities is the work of two publicity experts who tour all States delivering lectures supported by films featuring the different phases of the industry. These addresses are given before the senior students of all secondary and public schools in the capital cities and in the larger provincial towns and centres.

The publicity appropriation was £6,225, of which South Australia contributed £800.

Restriction on Plantings.

Statistics over the past decade disclose a pronounced upward curve in production. The average pack of dried vine fruits for the five-year period 1931 to 1935, was £64,448 tons, compared with 78,840 tons of the period 1936-1940.

In view of the present economic position of the dried fruits industry it is deemed desirable to restrict further plantings of vines for dried fruit production.

The Board comprises five members: Messrs. G. A. W. Pope, chairman, Hugh Crawford, deputy chairman, and C. W. Till (Barmera), J. R. Jemison (Ramco), C. E. Russell (non-irrigated areas).

The income for the year was £6,109/4/3, the expenditure £5,067/16/4, and the surplus of income over expenditure £1,041/7/11.

DRIED FRUITS BOARD (S.A.).

A meeting of the S. Aust. Dried Fruits Board was held at Adelaide on August 1.

Formal approval was confirmed of revised home consumption quotas as recommended by the Committee, and the Secretary (Mr. W. N. Twiss) reported that the members had previously indicated their approval and that all other State Boards had endorsed the Committee's recommendation.

In regard to the Committee's recommendation to bring dried "Ohanez" Grapes under control, it was agreed before taking action to confer with the S.A. Packers' Association.

The reports of the Investigation Officer (Mr. J. E. Noblet) on his visit to the towns in the Lower North were received, and these disclosed that country storekeepers were collaborating with the Board, not only in regard to strict compliance with the Dried Fruits Act in their trading activities, but also in **stocking and displaying better grades of dried fruit.**

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The Secretary reported that dealers' operations for the year 1940 had been completed and that the quotas for all varieties had been adjusted satisfactorily.

Assessments of annual contributions for the year 1941 were approved in respect to five packing houses which had completed operations. Progressive pack figures to July 1941, were examined.

The Chairman (Mr. G. A. W. Pope) read a copy of his letter to Lieut. Col. Cremor, D.S.O. (Secretary of the Victorian Board, now on active service abroad), conveying the S.A. Board's congratulations on his being awarded a Birthday Honor in recognition of his gallant conduct in the Grecian and Cretan campaigns. Members expressed their hearty approval of the Chairman's action.

STH. AUST. DRIED FRUITS BOARD.

Mr. G. A. W. Pope presided at the meeting on August 25.

The Secretary, Mr. W. N. Twiss, said arrangements had been made for the Board to co-operate with the Health Week Campaign in October.

It was decided to call a conference of Dried Tree-fruit Packers re the moisture content of Prunes and dried Apricots.

The need for restriction of plantings for dried vine fruits was stressed.

Sympathy was expressed to the relatives of the late Mr. G. A. Try, Secretary of the N.S.W. Dried Fruits Board.

MALNUTRITION IN GERMANY.

There is, in the opinion of war correspondents, widespread evidence of malnutrition in Germany.

In an article in the New York "Times," Tolischus, the Berlin correspondent who has just returned from Berlin, said that the Germans need fats, fruits and vegetables to maintain national efficiency and to restore vitamins and minerals lost in two years of unbalanced diet.

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Goulburn Valley (Vic.) News and Notes

Crop Prospects — Value of Stationary Spray Plants — Useful Agricultural Implements — Growers' Meetings

(By Our Correspondent.)

THE MONTH of August has been exceptionally dry here, only 30 pts. of rain fell, while dry weather is not detrimental for fruitgrowing, the conditions for pastures and crops are unfavorable, and good soaking rains are urgently needed.

The prospects for the coming season's fruit crop are reasonably good. **Canning Peaches** are looking well, and commenced to come out in full blossom with every prospect of a good crop.

Apricots are not quite so promising, and seem somewhat patchy. The Trevatt Apricot, which is a consistent bearer, is blossoming well, while the Moorpark and Oullins variety will be medium to light.

The Winter and Spring sprayings on stone fruits with Bordeaux mixture have been completed. Some growers still use a bluestone spray only at a strength of 1 lb. in 25 gals. of water, but it has been demonstrated that trees sprayed with Bordeaux mixture (6-4-40) are not nearly so subject to brown rot.

Great progress is being made throughout the district in installing **stationary spray plants,** which are proving most effective, and although the installing equipment is heavy (costing approx. £13 per acre), there is a corresponding saving in labor costs, with the extra very important point of getting the work done on time.

Cultural operations are in full swing: marked progress is evident, both in the mechanical improvements in tractors and also in the heavy traction implements, in disc cultivator, spring tooth cultivators and 3-4-5 furrow disc ploughs. All these heavy implements are operated by power lifts worked from the tractor.

Two years ago, Duncan Bros., engineers, of Shepparton, commenced manufacturing a power lift worked by compressed air, which has proved most satisfactory, and is easily operated by the driver. Another recent implement, also made locally, is a tractor delver for making channels, which ploughs and delves out the channels in one operation, thus saving considerable labor.

Prospects for a full supply of irrigation water in the coming season is assured as the storages are almost filled to capacity.

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Yocksui Bros.

P. S. MACDERMOTT, General Secretary,
215a Thomas St., Haymarket, Sydney.

Ardmona Fruitgrowers.

THE ANNUAL MEETING of Ardmona Fruit Growers' Association was held during the month, when the following officers were elected:—**President:** Mr. W. Young. **Vice-Presidents:** Messrs. J. D. Simson and W. J. Pearson. **Committee and Association Delegates to the Northern Association:** Messrs. O. Young, H. A. Lenne, V. R. McNab, J. D. Simson, H. E. Pickworth and C. Anderson. **Secretary and Treasurer:** Mr. S. P. Cornish.

The Association is in a sound financial position and the levy was again fixed at 9d. per ton on canning fruit.

Shepparton Fruit Growers' Association Annual Meeting.

Increasing Costs Cause Grave Concern.

Over 80 members attended the recent annual meeting of the Shepparton Fruit Growers' Association. The President, Mr. N. Fairless was elected unopposed, and Mr. A. A. Dobson was re-elected Secretary.

Extracts from the annual report are as follow:—

The past season was beset with many difficulties, but owing to the strenuous efforts of the Northern Victoria Fruit Growers' Association, and your own Committee, most of them have been overcome.

From the start the canning prospects were very obscure, but eventually the position was cleared up and canners took normal quantities of fruit.

At the moment prospects for canning the coming season's fruit crop should be reasonable, but it is too early to forecast.

The main difficulty seems to be the supply of tinplate for cans, but everything possible is being done to obtain supplies from U.S.A. Owing to the war supplies from Britain are out of the question.

Apple and Pear Acquisition.

Acquisition of Apples and Pears was again put into effect and this time from January 1, also W.B.C. Pears were included. Many local difficulties were encountered, and eventually overcome, and growers generally have expressed satisfaction. It is too early to say whether the scheme will be continued, or not, as a Special Parliamentary Committee is at present enquiring into the operation of the Board.

However, it is quite obvious that unless there is some method of organised marketing and control of Apples and Pears, the growers of them and those dependent on the industry for a livelihood, will be faced with ruin.

The quality of the Pears grown in the Goulburn Valley, has been outstanding on the Australian markets, and our Packhams and Josephines are probably without superiority anywhere, and will in future command a premium.

Increasing Costs.

Since the war we have been faced with increasing costs in labor, materials, and cost of living and yet fruit prices have actually been lower than formerly. It is a peculiar state of affairs where manufacturers get the cost of production (plus a profit). The worker receives a wage based on his cost of living, and yet the men who produce the foodstuffs get no consideration or protection.

This fact has driven many growers to appeal for Marketing Boards as their only hope to achieve a reasonable price for their goods, and to-day we see legislation covering dried fruits, chicory, maize, onions, barley and eggs. We have Apple and Pear acquisition, butter and wheat stabilisation; and Tomato growers are endeavoring to have a Board established to control the supply and price of Tomatoes for processing.

If the fruit industry is to prosper, some means must be devised to decrease handling and retail costs between the producer and the consumer.

Basic Wage for President.

On the motion of Mr. J. G. B. McDonald, M.L.A., it was decided to recommend to the Executive Committee to alter the constitution, to provide for the basic wage to any President of the Association, so that he could employ a full time man to attend to the work on his property. Mr. McDonald said that the President's work occupied the greater part of the time of the man concerned in looking after the interests of the fruitgrowers: it was up to the growers to see that the interests of the President himself were made secure.

Other speakers supported Mr. McDonald's remarks and the motion was carried unanimously.

Office-bearers were elected:—**President,** Mr. N. Fairless; **Vice-Presidents,** Messrs. R. Roberts and N. Hanlon; **Secretary,** Mr. A. A. Dobson; **Treasurer,** Mr. V. Riley; **Executive Committee,** Messrs. E. A. Jane, W. Pearce, W. Ford, A. Jones, N. Spivey, A. G. Stephens and E. W. Beckham.

GOULBURN VALLEY FRUIT CANNERIES.

Suggestion for Using for Other Purposes in "Off" Season Not Approved.

Replying to proposals for greater use of the Goulburn Valley Canneries in the "off" season, the Dept. of Commerce replied to Mr. W. Dunstan, M.L.A., pointing out that these canneries were equipped primarily for fruit processing: they could not (without considerable additions) be made suitable for the processing of meat and vegetables, except on a very limited scale.

Other reasons included the difficulties in the transport of meat from the killing point to the factory: the absence of a regular local supply of vegetables and shortage of tin plate.

New South Wales News and Notes

The N.S.W. Chamber of Fruit and Vegetable Industries

ANNUAL REPORT OF ACTIVITIES

THE ANNUAL MEETING of the N.S.W. Chamber of Fruit and Vegetable Industries was held in Sydney on July 30, and was well attended.

The President's Report was read and adopted.

Election of Councillors.

In accordance with the Rules of the Chamber, five members of Council retired, and as a result of the ballot the following five Councillors were elected for a period of three years:—Messrs. C. R. Walker, R. G. Clarke, L. T. Locke, W. Musgrove, F. Sawyer.

Election of Officers.

At the first meeting of Council held on August 7, the following officers were elected for the ensuing twelve months:—President, Mr. C. R. Walker; Deputy President, Mr. E. Cooke; Vice-presidents, Messrs. A. C. Ward, C. C. Greentree; Hon. Treasurer, Mr. J. Holmes; Co-opted Members of the Executive, Messrs. L. J. Jenkins, W. Musgrove.

The General Secretary is Mr. P. S. Macdermott.

Chairman's Report.

Gentlemen:

I have much pleasure in submitting a brief report of the Chamber's activities for the twelve months ended June 30, 1941.

Membership: During the year one new member has been admitted to the Chamber—four members rejoined, and four members have transferred their right of membership with the approval of Council—leaving at present one hundred and thirty-five (135) active and financial members of the Chamber.

Premises: During the year, through Fruit & Vegetable Traders Pty. Ltd., we have acquired the lease of the whole of these premises. The various offices and stores are let to tenants at a reasonable rental. This arrangement not only gives your Chamber greater security of tenure, but reduces the cost of the upkeep of our Chamber's Offices and Assembly Room. We have extended the accommodation of the general office and we have made additions to the office furniture.

Financial Standing: On the financial side, we have improved on last year's figures, and show for this year an excess of income over expenditure of approximately £1,000. The assets of the Chamber have steadily increased. This is a splendid achievement on practical lines, and reflects great credit on your Council and its officers.

Entrance Fee: Taking into consideration, amongst other matters, the present financial position of the Chamber, your Council in its wisdom has increased the entrance fee to £350. Members will readily realise that this action will give to members an added goodwill to their businesses and membership never enjoyed before.

Progress of Chamber: The Chamber has gradually and solidly progressed in its endeavour to advance the distributors to their rightful place in this great industry, and it is now recognised as the representative of the trade everywhere. Its value to members is beyond dispute. Daily throughout the year the members' interests are being attended to with courtesy and promptness.

Debtors' Schedule: The Debtors' Schedule has now become operative and has frequently proved of benefit to members contributing, but it can be made much more effective and useful to members by everyone co-operating. All should send in lists and give the Schedule a trial for six months. In order to safeguard members, we sent out periodical notices of liens on orchards and crops.

Fighting Forces: Early in the year, your Chamber made representations to the proper authorities with the result that more fruit and vegetables are now included in the diet of the Army, Navy, and Air Force.

Retail Conference: Your Council sent delegates to a Conference called by the Minister for Agriculture to discuss retail markets, etc., for fruit and vegetables, fish, meat and poultry. While your delegates considered the idea to be an unprofitable venture, the Department appears to be paving the way for the establishment of retail markets.

Citizens Reform Association: Last year the Chamber became a member of the Citizens Reform Association. This year Mr. L. J. Jenkins has been elected to the Council and Executive of that body.

Support for Hospitals: The Chamber has renewed its endowment of a Cot at Renwick Hospital for children, while members individually continue to support the two Cots at the Sydney Hospital.

Agreements and Co-operation with Producers' Organisations: The Chamber has renewed agreements with the following Growers' Organisations and forwarding Associations, viz.:—

Committee of Direction — Yarwun, Bowen, Granite Belt, and Redland Bay.

Banana Growers' Federation —Newcastle to Tweed Heads (North Coast).

Bowen Fruit Export Association—Bowen.

and the Chamber expresses its appreciation of the co-operation of these bodies and also its appreciation of the manner in which our members are carrying out the terms of these agreements.

Commission Rate and Charges: As a sequence to the finding of the Royal Commission, your Chamber approached the Government with recommendations in regard to commissions, limitation of agents, establishment of our own Fidelity Bonds, and a Licensing Board. After long consideration the Government replied as follows, viz.:—

"I desire to refer to the deputation from representatives of the Fruit & Vegetable Agents in the Sydney Municipal Markets which placed before me certain representations concerning the question of the adoption of the recommendation of the Royal Commissioner, appointed to enquire into the Fruit Industry, in regard to Farm Produce Agents' Commission.

"As promised at the deputation, this matter has been carefully reviewed, and whilst the position of the Agents is fully appreciated by the Government, it is felt that during the war any increase in the present rate of commission would be undesirable.

"Might I suggest, therefore, that this question be allowed to stand over until an appropriate time after the war, when the Government would be glad to give sympathetic consideration to the matter." — Alexander Mair, Premier.

They did, however, agree to an amendment to the regulations to allow of a minimum commission of 8d. per tropical case and a charge of 1d. per case on all interstate fruit. These regulations we understand have been agreed to by the new Minister, and should be gazetted any time now. Your Executive paid a courtesy call on the Minister for Agriculture, the Hon. W. Dunn, and was well received.

Apple and Pear Publicity: The Chamber has taken an active part in the publicity campaign to encourage the consumption of Apples and Pears.

An energetic Publicity Committee, with Mr. J. Holmes as Chairman, promoted the Apple Week Festival and the Shop Display Competition, and I would like to compliment the Retail Shopkeepers' Association on the fine displays of fruit and vegetables that so many of their members were responsible for.

In addition, the General Secretary, Mr. Macdermott, has arranged weekly visits to the various Schools, delivering Apples and lecturettes to the scholars. Prominent in this work are the following members, viz.:—Messrs. A. C. Ward, S. Coleman, L. J. Jenkins, K. Holmes, G. Pogson, S. Milne, H. P. Woodward, and others.

Sectional Committees: The following sections have met frequently during the year:—Vegetable, Banana and Strawberry Section.

The Apple and Pear Section's efforts have been limited to making representations to the Superintendent of Acquisition on behalf of its members.

The Citrus Section has not been as active as it might have been.

I would like the Junior Chamber to meet more regularly.

Vegetable Section Report: During the last twelve months members of the Vegetable Section of your Chamber have made what is probably one of the most progressive steps since the foundation of your Chamber, that is, that members do not now supply bags.

This was made possible only by the fact that with the exception of three firms then selling vegetables—now two firms only—all are members of the Chamber. As a further inducement to members to keep faith with their agreements your Chamber has made agreements with forwarding bodies to accept consignments for members of our Chamber only.

We are endeavouring to extend this policy of preferential treatment to our members wherever possible.

Sales by Auction: During the year an innovation for the City Markets was introduced, and finalised. I refer to the sale of fruit and vegetables by auction.

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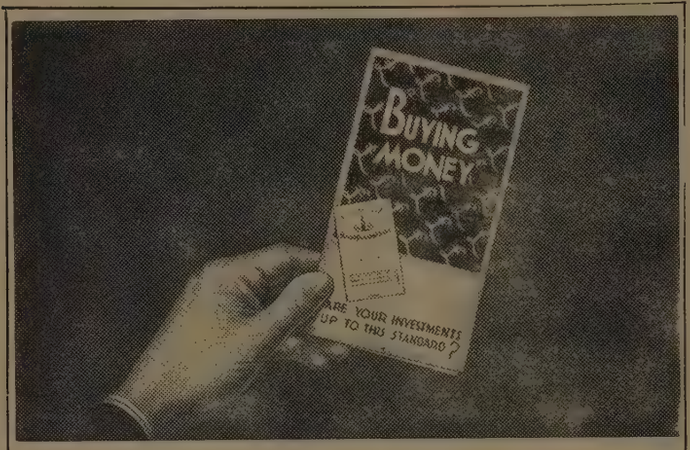

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Whilst most of us were dubious about the success of the venture, I would like to place on record our appreciation of the promoters, namely, Messrs. Radley & Son.

Brisbane Chamber: As a further tribute to the Chamber and its activities, the Brisbane agents and merchants have formed a Chamber of Fruit and Vegetable Industries on similar lines.

Brochure: Your Councillors are naturally proud of the progress that the Chamber has made during its six years of functioning, and have decided to place on record the Chamber's progress and achievements in the form of a Brochure. This will be in book form and include records of historic value to the trade, illustrated by photographs, and should be a production that every member will be glad to be associated with. It is also proposed to include the Rules of the Chamber in this publication.

Annual Dinner: The Annual Dinner was held on Saturday, 19th October, 1940, and proved a very successful and enjoyable function. Representatives from the various Departments that we contact during the year were present, including Major A. Reid, Minister for Agriculture, representing the Premier, and from all sections connected with the fruit and vegetable industry.

Apple and Pear Acquisition: The Australian Apple and Pear crop was this year again acquired by the Commonwealth Government, who authorised the Australian Apple and Pear Marketing Board to market the fruit on its behalf.

The Chamber sent a Delegation to Canberra consisting of Messrs. C. R. Walker, A. C. Ward, and the General Secretary. They met the Assistant Minister for Commerce (Mr. H. L. Anthony) and pressed for the appointment of at least two Agents on the N.S.W. Apple and Pear Acquisition Committee. Following this interview Messrs. Jenkins and Holmes were appointed to the Committee. The constitution of the N.S.W. Apple and Pear Acquisition Committee this year is different to that of the original one, which consisted of two Grower and two Agent representatives, and one Government nominee. There are now three Grower and two Agent representatives and one Government nominee.

The Committee, however, now only acts in an advisory capacity, and has no executive powers. The administration of the Scheme in New South Wales is controlled by the State Marketing Superintendent (Mr. H. A. Stevenson) who was appointed by the Minister.

As a result of representations by your Chamber, all Agents who had sold Apples and Pears prior to Acquisition were this season appointed as Agents for the Board.

Supplies to the Sydney Market this year have been below normal, and in consequence a number of members have suffered a dislocation in their business.

Your Chamber has done all it can in the interests of members, and has continually made representations to the Superintendent on behalf of members.

Council: I acknowledge with appreciation the co-operation and assistance of members of the Council during the year, also the Chairmen of the various Sections.

General Secretary and Office Staff: I also acknowledge with pleasure the capability and energy displayed by Mr. Macdermott, General Secretary, in the multifarious duties that he has to perform. His advice and assistance to members is continuous, and I feel sure that they must appreciate this.

I must also commend the excellent work of the Office Staff. In addition to the Chamber work, which they keep up to date, they have considerable extra work in connection with the Market Industries (N.S.W.) War Fund. Keeping accounts, collection from the No. 6 Market, taking part in all patriotic efforts (which often entails overtime) and above all doing it cheerfully and without complaint.

Cordial Relations with all Sections: It is pleasing to record the cordial relations that exist between the Chamber and all those interests which come in daily contact with members and which include the Railways, Shipping Companies, Carriers, Retailers, Government Departments, etc. Mention must also be made and appreciation expressed of the splendid co-operation shown by the Acting-Superintendent of Markets, Mr. E. S. Hills.

Markets Advisory Committee: This Committee continued to function throughout the year, the Chamber representatives being Mr. C. C. Greentree and the General Secretary. Undoubtedly, as a result of this Committee's work all sections of the Markets are functioning more smoothly than was the case in the past.

Conclusion: In conclusion I thank all members for their confidence and support, and I trust that the coming year will not only see a change for the better in the international situation, but will be a prosperous and happy one for all of you.

W. MUSGROVE,
President, N.S.W. Chamber of Fruit and Vegetable Industries.
Sydney.

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Fruitgrowers' Federation of New South Wales

ORCHARD REGISTRATION REFERENDUM — FRUIT CASES — PETROL RATIONING — FRUIT FLY CONTROL — BUD SELECTION — FERTILIZERS — SYDNEY MARKETS.

A meeting of the Board of the Fruitgrowers' Federation of N.S.W. was held at Sydney on August 14 and 15, 1941.

There were present Messrs. F. B. Mackenzie (in the chair), S. A. Stanford (Orange), A. E. Horne (Kingsvale), P. W. James (Dural), A. J. Taylor (Warkworth), H. C. Matheson (Grose Wold), A. E. Lillicrapp (Gosford), A. E. Herring, K. H. Todd, and L. T. Pearce (Market Representative).

Apologies were received from General Heane, Past-President, and from the Secretary, Colonel E. E. Herrod, who was engaged in military duties.

Orchard Registration Fee Referendum: The President reported the result of the recently held referendum as being an adverse vote to continuance of the Orchard Registration Fee. Efforts had been made to contact the Minister for Agriculture to discuss future operations, but the Minister had not yet been able to receive a delegation. Board members analysed the votes recorded in the referendum and were convinced that there was a major section of the commercial fruitgrowers who favored continuance of registration and the payment of the registration fee, and therefore, favored a central growers' organisation. The opinion was expressed that moneys collected under the Plant Diseases Act and held by the Department of Agriculture should be made available for the conduct of a central organisation, and it was intended to make representations to the Minister to this effect.

Annual Conference Resolutions.

Water Supply: Conference resolved "that this Conference is of the opinion that equal rights for the use of city water be given to fruitgrowers as to vegetable growers." The Secretary of the Metropolitan Water Board replied that there was no alternative but for fruitgrowers to carry on as at present until such time as rain increased the supply of water available. Provision had been made for ample water storage, but heavy falls of rain were necessary before the storage capacity could be utilised.

Registration of Motor Vehicles: Conference resolved "that this Conference requests the State Government to reduce the Registration Fee of motor vehicles in view of greatly reduced mileage owing to petrol rationing." The Department of Road Transport replied that the Premier, the Hon. W. J. McKell, M.L.A., had recently announced that the question of making a reduction in motor vehicle taxation was being reviewed.

Fruit Cases: (a) **The Price of Fruit Cases.**—Conference resolved "that the Prices Commissioner be asked to inquire into the justification of the rise by approximately 100 per cent. in the price of fruit cases, especially those made from Australian timber." The Department of Trade and Customs, Commonwealth Prices Branch, intimated that detailed information on this matter should be made available to the Deputy Prices Commissioner after which enquiries would be made.

The Board of the Federation decided to approach fruitgrowers and their organisations and to request documentary evidence of the prices charged for fruit cases as at August 31, 1939, and at recent dates respectively, this information then to be forwarded to the Prices Commissioner.

(b) The Annual Conference had also resolved a standardisation of fruit cases; the setting aside of a proportion of timber cut on State forests for making fruit cases; and investigations regarding the disappearance of returnable cases, and the Board decided to take action accordingly. In relation to Conference resolution that case depots be established in Sydney and Newcastle, it was decided to refer the sterilisation of fruit cases to the Department of Agriculture. It was reported that case depots were fairly numerous, but that the establishment of central case depots at Sydney and Newcastle would not necessarily solve the problems referred to by the sponsors of this resolution.

Salter Bros.' Fruit Shop at Rockdale, N.S.W., equal Second Prize, Apple and Pear Board's Competition.

Bags for Vegetables: Conference resolved that all bags sold with green vegetables be charged to the buyer and accounted for by the agent, and also that vegetable agents be asked their reason for adopting the policy of selling bags with the produce. The Board decided to investigate these matters and to supply such information as might be possible.

Fertilizers: The fertilizer position was discussed at considerable length, and it was ascertained that supplies of sulphate of ammonia, potash and blood and bone, were, at present, exhausted. Conference requested the Board to do its utmost to ensure that the interests of fruitgrowers would not be overlooked in any rationing scheme that might be introduced. It was accordingly decided by the Board to communicate with the Department of Commerce asking for priority for orchards in rationing of fertilizers, in view of the comparative permanency of orchards as compared with annual crops and the injury which orchards would sustain if supplies of fertilizer were not available.

Destruction of Flying Fox: The Inverell district through Annual Conference requested that assistance should be given to the destruction of this pest, and it was decided to refer the matter back to the Inverell organisation requesting information as to the particular form of assistance which they had in mind.

Fruit Inspectors: It was decided to support the request of Conference that a fruit inspector be appointed for the Inverell district from October 1 to the end of February, and this recommendation accordingly was to be forwarded to the Department of Agriculture. Conference resolved that fruit inspectors be empowered to prosecute direct, but it was decided to make no recommendation to the Department of Agriculture for an alteration of the existing method.

Pay-Roll Taxation: Conference had resolved "that this Conference ask the Board to arrange a deputation to the Minister regarding the exemp-

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MARKETING SUPERVISION UNDERTAKEN THROUGHOUT GREAT BRITAIN FOR ASSOCIATIONS OR GROUPS OF GROWERS OR PACKERS.

Members of
The National Federation of Fruit and Potato Trades Ltd. The Liverpool Fruit Importers Association Ltd.

Fruitgrowers' Federation of N.S.W. — (Continued)

tion of primary producers from pay-roll taxation." In the discussion it was stated that objections to the pay-roll tax were made in view of it falling upon only a certain small section of the community, thereby making it inequitable and unconstitutional. The Secretary reported that representations in this matter had already been made to the authorities concerned, without success. It was then decided, in view of the clerical work and calculations involved, to approach the Federal Treasurer, Mr. Fadden, asking that orchardists be permitted to make their payment annually instead of weekly, as at present required. It was decided that a deputation would wait upon the Federal Treasurer in this regard.

Preventive Measures Against Fruit Fly: Conference had resolved that the Minister for Agriculture be requested to approve of the sum of £500 being contributed to subsidise the £1,000 reward proposed to be offered jointly by New South Wales and Queensland. The Secretary reported that the Committee of Direction of Fruit Marketing, Queensland, under advice from the Queensland Department of Agriculture, was not continuing with the reward project, but instead was developing and experimenting with a Fruit Fly lure which had met with marked success. The rights to this lure, subject to mutually satisfactory conditions being determined, were being purchased by the Queensland C.O.D. for the sum of £200, and it was intended at a later stage that the lure and its manner of application should be made public property. The Board of the Federation accordingly decided to ask the N.S.W. Department of Agriculture to follow up this matter and give any assistance possible.

Petrol Rationing: Conditions of petrol rationing had altered considerably since the holding of the Annual Conference. It was reported that Conference requested that some special consideration should be given to primary producers using their petrol pleasure licences for business purposes. This had since been adjusted, and the Commonwealth Liquid Fuel Control Board referred primary producers in the country to the Officer-in-Charge of the local police station when allowances were inadequate for business requirements.

Co-Operative Bud Selection Society: The close of the financial year of this Society necessitated the appointment by the Federation of five (5) grower representatives to the Board of the Society. It was resolved that the present representatives be re-elected, these being as follows:—Messrs. J. Heane, H. G. Such, H. S. Robinson, F. B. Mackenzie and A. S. Brown.

Moratorium for Primary Industries: In view of the adverse circumstances being experienced by fruitgrowers through years of drought, the disappearance of markets and rising costs, it was resolved that the Government be requested to grant a moratorium to all fruitgrowers for the duration of the war.

Culinary Herbs Shortage: In view of the shortage of culinary herbs since the war, it was reported that the Country Women's Association was organising the growth of herbs throughout the State. It was reported that the Federation had been represented at meetings held in connection with this matter, and every assistance to the cultivation of herbs was being given by publicity. The money raised by the sale of herbs would be contributed to patriotic purposes.

Creation of a Markets Area: The Markets Advisory Committee had reported that consideration was being given to advocating the creation of a markets area to include those streets and buildings where the Sydney Markets were situated. It was believed that the creation of this area and its enclosure would facilitate control of marketing by the Markets Superintendent to the advantage of the industry. It was decided to support the suggestion.

Publicity: It was reported that the "Eat More Fruit" Campaign Committee, upon which the Federation is represented, had commenced a four-weeks' radio advertising campaign to assist the consumption of Lemons, Oranges and Mandarins. In addition to the use of radio, theatre picture slides were being used in relation to Mandarins. In addition distribution of citrus recipe books had commenced.

Evidence Before Joint Parliamentary Committee: The President reported that the Committee had recently been sitting in Sydney and that evidence had been given by himself and a number of locally situated Apple growers. The President stated that he and the growers concerned had made a strong plea for the exemption from acquisition of Apples which mature between the months of November and February.

LEETON CANNERY.

The directors of the Leeton Cannery have been authorised to invest up to £2,000 to acquire interests which will enable them to obtain adequate supplies of case-making materials. The action of the directors in acquiring 500 shares in the Growers' Co-op. Sales Ltd., in Sydney was endorsed. The Chairman, Mr. A. G. Enticknap, M.L.A., stated that the cannery last year used 600,000 cases of various sizes. By acquiring interests in saw mills, or case-making establishments, this would ensure supplies on economical terms.

N.S.W. ORCHARD TAX TO BE ABOLISHED.

The N.S.W. Under Secretary for Agriculture (Dr. Noble) stated recently that the Orchard Tax would be abolished as a result of the recent vote.

In answer to a question in the N.S.W. Legislative Assembly the Minister for Agriculture (Mr. Dunn), said that of the 14,000 ballot papers issued, 6,000 had not been returned, and it now devolved upon those who defeated the retention of the tax, or who did not vote, to inaugurate an organisation to look after the interests of fruitgrowers.

BOMBER BALL IN SYDNEY.

The funds of that ever-active organisation, the Market Industries (N.S.W.) War Fund, benefited by approximately £80 from the Bomber Ball held at Mark Foys' on Saturday, August 16.

The function was a great success, and the many innovations and original decorations, were heartily approved by one and all on the crowded floor. Two artists from Australia's Amateur Hour provided an amusing ten minutes with a "Donald and Dewey Duck" patter, act. During the evening an energetic committee, comprising Misses E. Richardson, Read, Simpson, O'Donnell, Taylor, Yin (2), and Mrs. Greentree, sold miniature bombers, each of which bore a tiny number. Later two lucky numbers were drawn by M. Duplatre, President of the Free French Movement, while two lucky spot prizes were generously donated by Aeroplane Jellies. The tables were each numbered with a tiny silver bomber, while larger ones mounted on huge "Vs" were hung from each pillar round the dance floor. Many other models were used to decorate the official table, while lovely floral bombers graced other tables nearby.

THE KURRAJONG TREE.

For Shelter and Fodder.

This tree (Brachychiton populneus) is unsurpassed as a fodder tree and also provides valuable shelter for stock. It is hardy, drought-resistant and long living, and is palatable to the stock. It is deep-rooting, will grow on a variety of soils and is graceful on barren landscapes, but shows a preference for limestone formations. It ranges from 20 to 60 feet in height and will grow from seed sown when the ground is warm and has been thoroughly prepared. The seedlings are planted out at one year old into the nursery where they remain for say six years before being transplanted to their permanent site in the Spring.

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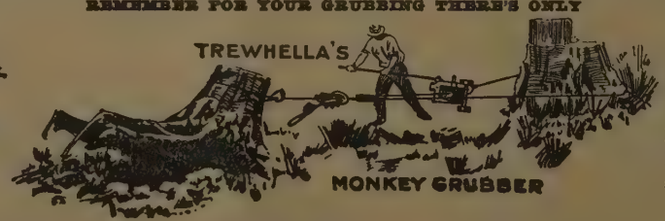

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Murrumbidgee Irrigation Areas

CITRUS EXPORT TO N.Z. — EARLY IRRIGATION — WHAT SHOULD BE THE SIZE OF A "HORTICULTURAL" BLOCK — TRANSFER OF LAND TO ENEMY ALIENS OPPOSED — MINISTER FOR IRRIGATION PROPOSED.

(By Our Correspondent.)

Griffith Producers' Fine Effort: For the fortnight ended August 22, the Griffith Producers' Co.-op. Ltd., made a special effort to fill their export quota, and at the same time maintain their usual large country order output and ordinary market consignments.

17,000 bushels was the excellent total for the week ended August 15. However, this was beaten during the following week bringing the grand total for the fortnight to 35,000 bushels.

To show its appreciation for this fine effort, the management put on beer and "hot dogs" for all hands. The girls on the staff were presented with boxes of chocolates.

Mr. Tom Morley, fruit section manager, in his usual breezy manner, thanked the staff for their loyal co-operation. A toast to "The Producer" was proposed by an employee of some years' service with the company, and Mr. R. Mallinson, general manager, responded on behalf of the company.

Early Irrigation Commences: Owing to the extremely dry Winter, water has been sent down the channels much earlier than usual. Many growers are now irrigating, although Winter operations on many farms are still being carried out.

It is generally conceded that moisture in the soil during the Spring months, is of vital importance, not only from the point of view of fruit setting, but also as a means of minimising frost injury.

Prospects for rain were very promising this morning (August 22) but the day ended in a terrific dust storm, which, in the evening cleared up and left the usual clear sky.

Fruit Growers' Problems on M.I.A.: A deputation of the Executive of the Fruit Growers' Co-operative of the M.I.A. waited upon the Minister for Agriculture, Hon. W. F. Dunn, in Leeton, regarding the problems of fruitgrowers. Discussion took place as to whether horticultural areas should be 75 acres, or not.

The Minister stated that he favored reasonable areas, that he was going to prevent aggregation of holdings, and that he was also going to prevent sales of land to Italians.

Larger areas were justified, according to Mr. V. C. Williams, firstly because of the short life of the trees, and sufficient land should be available to take up pasture improvement or soil renovation so that when the trees reached seven or ten years of age, young trees could be planted up.

Mr. Enticnap, M.L.A., said they had reached a stage where they felt justified in getting a horticultural area on a fixed basis of 75 acres. Had he had a 75-acre area in the first place he probably would never have had any trouble. If they only had a 20-acre block they had to get every shilling out of the land they could. They would like to see the principle established that a 75-acre block was a horticultural proposition.

Capt. Dunn said that he had never advocated small living areas. They would recognise, therefore, that he was not unfriendly for their desire for a living area. But of course he did not know how they could do it to help those already there. When he was first Minister, the settlers did not want too much land. They did not foresee that the trees would cease to yield.

He did not know whether the present proposition of 75 acres was not a bit too high. He would not pit his knowledge against theirs, but he knew the bulk of the areas were too small. The problem was to know what they were to do for those whose areas were too small. Efforts to get additional land here had been going on for some time, but they did not know what they could do for those already on small areas.

Capt. Dunn said that he was going to prevent aggregation of large area holdings.

Minister Opposes Alien Control. Capt. Dunn said that he was going to prevent sales of land to Italians. He did not want settlers to sell to Italians. We were at war with Italy, and they were enemy aliens. No one had any right to tie up any more of our land with Italians. They should be working on farms for white men instead of white men working for them, and they would not get transfers.

Minister for Irrigation, Proposal Modified: In recent years it has often been suggested that a Minister for Irrigation be appointed.

A deputation waiting on Capt. Dunn suggested that an Assistant Minister to the Minister for Agriculture be appointed. Capt. Dunn said that he was thoroughly in accord. An Assistant Minister would be very necessary and welcome. They might be able to bring that about. He would like an Assistant Minister to take over some of the work, but he would not like to give up the Agricultural Ministry. He would not mind an Assistant Minister if he took over Forestry, for instance.

Citrus Crops In N.S.W.

The latest review of the citrus crop conditions (as at August 1) are to hand from Mr. A. A. Watson, Chief, Division of Marketing, N.S.W. Department of Agriculture, as follows:—

Generally dry weather has prevailed throughout the citrus growing areas since date of last report, and heavy frosts occurred at times.

Much of the Navel crop has been marketed. The fruit was mostly of large size and satisfactory quality.

Valencias are patchy. Some good crops are to be seen but many are moderate to light. Prevailing conditions appear to be affecting development.

The bulk of the Common Oranges has been disposed of, a fairly large percentage being purchased by factories for juice extraction.

A large proportion of the Mandarin crop which remains comprises small fruit which is proving difficult to sell.

Lemon crops are fairly good but demand is poor and disposals slow.

Fruit Inspectors of the Department of Agriculture and Honorary Correspondents supplied the basic data for the survey which follows.

Bulga: Very dry weather. Navel crop light; very few are being marketed.

Wyong: Weather dry; frosts caused a little damage. Approximately 75 per cent. of the Navels has been harvested. Valencia crops patchy, ranging from very heavy to light. The fruit is expected to be large on lightly laden trees.

Fair quantities of Common Oranges have been marketed, including disposals to factories for juice extraction.

Gosford: Very little rain in July; frosts occurred. More than half the Navel crop has been marketed. Fruit large and of good quality. Trees are showing signs of budding. Valencias sizing well and seem likely to reach maturity much earlier than usual. Joppas mostly marketed from around Gosford and Terrigal (principally for juice). Trees look well and show signs of budding.

There are still a few Emperor Mandarins on trees at Gosford.

Crops were better than was anticipated; fruit of good size and quality.

Lemon crop heavy and of good quality. Owing to low prices growers are finding difficulty in disposing of stocks satisfactorily. Factory purchases below average.

Hawkesbury River: Weather mostly fine; rain needed. There were fogs and frosts. Bulk of Navels harvested. Valencias medium to light. Small sizes predominate but early rains could be expected to result in an improvement. Common Oranges are being sold to factories. Moderate crops of Joppas, quality fair. Silettas have been harvested.

Emperor Mandarins are being picked as rapidly as the labor problem will permit. Marketing of Lemons slow.

Hills District: Mild weather and frosts; only light showers of rain were received. Navels mostly marketed; trees commencing to bud. Very few Valencias on old trees and crop light on young trees. Color, juice and sugar content good. The Mandarin crop is not very satisfactory.

Lemon crops good but demand slow.

Windsor: Weather extremely dry; heavy frosts caused considerable damage to Mandarins. Navels mostly marketed. Crops on dry areas were light but satisfactory returns were obtained from river groves.

Valencia crop good but fruit on small side. The dry, frosty conditions are causing anxiety in some places as the probability of the fruit drying out is now great.

Large quantities of undersized Mandarins are noticeable in most orchards, and a considerable percentage will not reach market. Just on 12,000 cases of Mandarins were railed from Windsor to Melbourne during July.

Frost is reported to be having an adverse effect on the maturing crop of Lemons and also on the foliage of the trees.

Kurrajong-Penrith: All crops show the effects of lack of moisture; heavy frosts have caused damage in low-lying groves.

Harvesting of Navels well advanced—crop moderate to light. Much over-size fruit was in evidence.

A medium to good crop of Valencias is in sight, but the bulk of the fruit is very small owing to the prolonged dry spell.

Common Oranges patchy. Harvesting slow.

A patchy to medium crop of Sevilles is now being gathered; the fruit is meeting a keen demand and it is reported that high prices are being realised.

There is a large crop of small and inferior Emperor Mandarins and as there is little

GROWERS PROSECUTED.

Two growers were recently prosecuted and fined at Griffith for not taking proper steps to prevent the control of Codling Moth, i.e., for failing to destroy fallen fruit. Another grower was fined for failing to take steps by spraying or fumigation to control Red Scale on citrus trees.

demand for this type of fruit it is anticipated much of it will have to be destroyed.

Lemon crop medium to good.

Parramatta-Camden: Trees need good soaking rains. Navels marketed and trees are commencing to shoot. Valencias are well colored but much of the fruit is small. Most trees in the Orangeville locality are in poor condition. Common Oranges are being marketed and trees are beginning to shoot. Lemons are accumulating on trees.

Forbes: The Navel crop, which comprised very choice fruit, has been marketed. The crop was lighter than expected.

Murrumbidgee Irrigation Area: Navels are light around Yenda but large-sized fruit predominates. Picking is very steady and marketings are below those normally expected in July.

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A consignment went forward to New Zealand during the last week of July.

Valencias are now coloring well and crops, given satisfactory weather conditions, should come up to previous expectations.

Most of the Common Oranges have been sold for juice extraction, whilst Sevilles have been disposed of to jam factories.

Mandarins, which are not extensively grown, have been sold to country buyers.

A very poor demand is being experienced for Lemons. A fair percentage has been sold for juice extraction purposes at comparatively low prices.

SULPHATE OF AMMONIA.

An Explanation of the Stock Position and Recent Price Reduction.

IN view of misconceptions concerning the supply position of sulphate of ammonia, and the reason for the recent price reduction, the following information has been supplied by Nitrogen Fertilizers Pty. Ltd., Melbourne:—

Production of sulphate of ammonia in the gasworks and steel works of the Commonwealth represents something more than 50 per cent. of Australia's agricultural and horticultural requirements. The balance has been imported from England in the past, but ever since the collapse of France and the intensification of Britain's war effort, English supplies have not been available. Limited supplies have been obtained from Canada, but irrespective of the source of supply, any imported sulphate of ammonia that might be available to the competition of the world is both difficult to obtain and expensive as well.

Just after the war began, the rising costs of imported sulphate of ammonia were duly noted, and called to the Government's attention, with the suggestion that the higher priced imported and the lower priced local sulphate of ammonia should be placed in a pool, and the price equated to ensure one wholesale and one retail price over the whole of Australia. The Government accepted the scheme as suggested, and the pool is managed by Nitrogen Fertilizers Pty. Ltd., under Government supervision.

The result of the pooling arrangement has been that sulphate of ammonia which has cost £20 and more to land has been sold to primary producers at more than £3 per ton less than its costs, and only recently, negotiations were in train for the purchase from Canada of a parcel large enough to meet the difference between total requirements and local production, at a landed cost of about £25 per ton, which would have been retailed at about £9 per ton lower. Unfortunately, though the Min-

ister of Customs had signified the Government's willingness to grant import licenses for a tonnage sufficient to meet the difference between local production and total requirements, formal permission was withheld at the last moment, because the British Government wanted the material for consignment to Egypt to produce vital crops for the Australian and British garrisons there. This was as serious as it was unexpected, because the importance of sulphate of ammonia for primary production had been emphasised to the Government at a conference of representatives of Departments of Agriculture held in Canberra in January last.

From the point of view of price, this unfortunate ruling of the Government had a peculiar effect, and provided quite an economic paradox. For with limited supplies only available, the price had to revert to its pre-war level, or something very close to it. Briefly, the position was this: Had importations been available, the price would have remained at its former level in order to equate the disparity in prices between local and imported. Without imports there was no need to equate prices, and the pre-war price was restored. Thus we have sulphate of ammonia prices lower to-day than they have been for years, while at the same time there is the greatest difficulty in getting supplies, and the product never enjoyed wider popularity.

This point should be made clear—the pool was carried on without profit to anyone, and the local producers of sulphate of ammonia have received all the time, only the same price—with small increases in certain instances, and always with the approval of the Prices Commissioner—as they were receiving in August, 1939. Under the pooling arrangement exploitation of a price increase was quite impossible, because fertilizer companies holding stocks of sulphate of ammonia at the time of a price rise, turned them back into the pool, and paid into the pool the amount of the increase in price. Primary producers who might have had stocks were not asked to turn **their** sulphate of ammonia back into the pool, and they thus secured the advantage of the full extent of two rises in price that have taken place since August, 1939.

It has been suggested by irate correspondents to the press that there are stocks of sulphate of ammonia being held against a price rise, or perhaps against the granting of a subsidy by the Government. This is entirely wrong. If sulphate of ammonia is not being offered as freely now, when the price is low, as it was when the price was high, it is because companies have been forced by circumstances to ration their clients, and not because they see an opportunity of making more money by hanging on to stocks. The Price Fixing legislation of the Commonwealth Government prevents them from doing this, even if they wanted to do so.

The position has been aggravated further by the Government's demands on the local sulphate of ammonia for munitions purposes. A very substantial tonnage—equal to about 20 per cent. of available production has been ear-marked by the Government already, and further supplies are likely to be required. The over-all position at present is that due to the Government's unwillingness to permit imports, and its demands for munitions, total requirements are nearly 50 per cent. short.

Certainly the Government, in response to representations on behalf of primary producers has signified its willingness to hold off its orders until the active fertilizer season is over, and this has made available to primary producers this Spring a bigger tonnage than was at first expected, but the outlook for those who require Autumn applications of sulphate of ammonia is not by any means bright.

REASON FOR GOVERNMENT ACTION.

The following is a copy of letter received by Nitrogen Fertilizers Pty. Ltd., from the Minister for Customs, explaining reasons for refusal to grant licences for exportation of sulphate of ammonia:

"I refer to your letter dated July 22, 1941, concerning the question of licenses for sulphate of ammonia from Canada.

"The conclusion that 17,000 tons of sulphate of ammonia would be required to supplement local production during the current year was, as you are aware, arrived at after a conference between representatives of Agricultural Departments and officers of the Department of Trade and Customs in January, 1941. Following this conference the Department indicated that licenses for a quantity not exceeding 17,000 tons would be authorised. At that time it was not thought that any complications would arise with regard to supply, although it was known that there was a world shortage of this commodity. Had the present situation been foreseen the Department could not have acquiesced in the views expressed at the conference.

"There has not been any change in the Government attitude on this subject. Indeed all the actions of the various Government Departments have been directed towards the procurement of sulphate of ammonia for Australian requirements. However, when the position arose that the United Kingdom Government represented in the strongest possible terms that consignments destined for Australia were required to grow food in areas where Australian troops were located, there was not much choice left for the Commonwealth Government. The decision which had to be made primarily by the United Kingdom Government and secondarily by the Commonwealth Government was whether the needs of our troops in the Middle East were to be paramount to our need in Australia.

"Prior to the time when this point became evident, all the Commonwealth Government's activities had been directed towards giving the greatest possible aid for procurement of these goods and for the shipping to transport the goods.

"I am aware that it is probable that some form of rationing of supplies of sulphate of

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Market Notes and Prices

NEW SOUTH WALES.

Sydney: The following market notes and prices are issued by the State Marketing Bureau of N.S.W. for the week ended August 27.

The market during the period was lightly supplied with Apples, particularly small, colored, dessert lines. Consignments from interstate sources were very light, apart from Western Aust. G. Smiths. High rates ruled for the few 2¼ and 2½ inch red Apples that were available, while prices of local Del. advanced sharply, up to 20/- bush. being obtained. High values ruled for Demo., and, owing to the shortage of dessert lines, buyers paid more attention to this variety.

Supplies of Pears were also light and comprised mainly Packham's T. from local and interstate sources. Choice quality lots were sold at firm rates.

Steady demand was in evidence for Navel Oranges, and values generally showed little change. Up to 8/- bush. was paid, while as high as 9/- was realised for a few specials.

Choice, large Mandarins sold well and prices advanced. Lots showing puffiness or small fruit, however, were slow to clear.

There was no improvement in the market for Lemons and rates remained at low levels.

Supplies of Passionfruit showed a marked falling off and, as a result, values firmed about 3/- half-case for best packs.

Trading in Pineapples continued to be somewhat restricted, owing largely to the unsatisfactory quality of many packs.

Recent consignments of Queensland Strawberries showed a considerable amount of breakdown and much repacking of packet lines was necessary. A large percentage of lots in trays consisted of very small lines, which proved difficult to clear.

Ruling rates are:—

Apples: Local G. Smith, 8/- to 13/-; Del., 14/- to 20/-; Interstate Statesman, 10/- to 14/-; Demo. and G. Smith, 8/- to 12/-. **Pears:** Packham's T., Local and Interstate, 8/6 to 14/- case. Special lines of all varieties of Apples and Pears realised higher rates.

Bananas: Nines and Eights, 15/- to 16/-; Sevens, 13/- to 14/-; Sixes, 8/- to 12/- (few specials, each grade higher, inferior and ripe lots lower). **Papaws:** 5/- to 10/-. **Pineapples:** 7/- to 10/- trop. case.

Oranges: Navel, Coastal, 5/- to 8/- (specials higher); Irrig. Area, 6/- to 8/- (specials dearer) per case and 10/- to 15/- crate; Common, 3/6 to 4/6. **Lemons:** Coastal, 2/- to 6/-. **Mandarins:** Emperor, 3/- to 10/- (specials higher). **Grapefruit:** Coastal, 3/- to 7/-; Inland, 6/- to 8/-; specials higher, per case.

Passionfruit: Choice, 11/- to 13/-; other descriptions, 4/- to 10/- half case.

Strawberries: Q'land, 6/- to 12/- (specials dearer) per dozen packets, and 2/6 to 5/- tray (few higher).

VICTORIA.

Melbourne (1/9/41): Wholesale Fruit Merchants' Association prices were:—Peas, 14/-, 18/-; interstate h.; Beans, 7d., 10d., f.h. Apples, (e.) 9/-, 15/-, (c.) 7/-, 9/-. Green Bananas, 8/-, 15/-, f.h. Grapefruit, 6/-, 11/-, sel. h. Lemons, 6/-, 9/-, sel. h. Mandarins, 4/-, 12/-, sel. h. Oranges, 5/-, 11/-, sel. h. Passionfruit (½ c.), 6/-, 12/-, ch. h. Pears, 8/-, 13/-. Pineapples, 8/-, 10/-, f.h. W.A. Tomatoes, 5/-, 8/-, f.h.; S.A., best, ripe, to 12/-. Celery (D.C.), 10/-, 15/-.

(Continued from page 25.)

ammonia for agricultural purposes may be necessary as the result of inability to import the quantity mentioned in your letter. Such a contingency is, however, always inherent under present circumstances. Rationing of a number of commodities is inevitable in war time and an extension of hostilities to other spheres may well force this country to rely almost entirely on its own resources.

"We must be prepared therefore to meet any such emergency either by reducing consumption of imported goods or, if necessity arises, dispensing with their use entirely."

SOUTH AUSTRALIA.

Adelaide (29/8/41): The following report is by the S.A. Fruitgrowers and Market Gardeners' Association Incorp.

The vegetable market remained firm, prices, however, were unaltered. Tomato sales were much improved at the unchanged rates.

The fruit market continued firm with an increase in prices for Navel Oranges.

The undermentioned quotes are for F.A.Q.

Vegetables: Beetroot, 2/- doz.; Brussels Sprouts, 5/-, 5/6 doz. lb.; Cabbages, 3/6 to 7/- doz.; Carrots, 3/6, 4/- doz. bchs.; Cauliflowers, 6/- doz.; Celery, 4/- doz. heads; Leeks, 2/6 doz.; Lettuces, 1/6, 2/- doz.; Onions, 22/- cwt.; Parsnips, 2/- doz. bchs.; Peas, 10/- to 14/-, special to 16/- bushel; Potatoes, 5/- cwt.; Rhubarb, 1/6 doz. lb.; do., Cherry, 2/- doz. lbs.; Tomatoes, Firsts, 12/- ½ case; Trombones, 14/- cwt.; Turnips, 2/- doz. bchs; Swede Turnips, 2/6, 3/- doz. bchs.; Triambles, 12/-, 14/- cwt.

Fruits—Apples: G. Smith, 6/-, 8/- case; Del., 7/-, 9/- case; Jons., 6/-, 8/- case; Cleos., 6/-, 8/- case; Romes, 6/-, 8/- case. Londons, 6/- case; Statesman, 5/6, 7/- case; Democrat, 8/- case. Case included. Oranges, Common, 5/-, 8/- case; Mandarin 8/- to 14/- case; Navel, 75/84, 7/-, 8/-, 96 9/-, 112, 9/6, 126 10/6, over 126 11/6, cases extra; Grapefruit, 7/-, 8/- case, Lemons (colored), 5/-; Bananas, 20/-, 22/- crate; Pineapples, 13/-, 16/- crate; Passionfruit, 16/- ½ case.

AN APPRECIATION.

A New Zealand reader of "Fruit World," when forwarding his cheque for his subscription, adds:—

"I always look forward to receiving the "Fruit World" on account of the many very interesting articles concerning the problems confronting the fruitgrower, which are varied and never-ending. In this district of Central Otago we have our share of pests and fungoid diseases, but on account of the dryness of our climate fungoid troubles can be kept under control by the exercise of care in spraying and proper orchard sanitation. Frost visitations have this year taken a big toll of Apricots, and in our district an 80 per cent. loss was sustained."

"HELP YOURSELF" FRUIT STALL.

A Californian fruit grower who has a stall on the roadside near his orchard is a believer in the honesty of tourists. There is no one in charge of the stall, the prices are plainly marked on the fruit, and the buyer helps himself and leaves the money in a hat. He has notices posted up which read: "Please help yourself, pay the hat; if you are dishonest join respectable company."

He has sold as much as 30/- worth of fruit and vegetables in a day, and he states that he is never robbed by purchasers. He is to be commended in the trust which he displays in human nature.

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SEASONABLE CITRUS NOTES

HINTS ON CULTIVATION, MANURING AND SPRAYING.

BY LATE SEPTEMBER another growing season will have started in the citrus orchards. What quality and quantity of fruit are you going to harvest. during the coming season? Your success as a citrus grower depends so largely upon these two factors that every citrus grower must seriously consider them, and this is the season of the year when the crop prospects for the coming year are most readily influenced.

For quality and quantity, remember:

Cultivate, Manure, Spray.

Citrus trees should be cultivated lightly after they have reached maturity. During the earlier years hand-digging and ploughing are satisfactory, but once trees have begun to crop it is unsound to dig too deeply near the trees or to plough close up to them. After all, at this time of year trees are beginning to grow new foliage and fruit, and how can this growth be maintained if all the fine root hairs of the roots are broken by deep cultivation?

Of what use is the application of manures just now if by cultivation the tree is repressed in such a manner that it cannot absorb the manures available, and if by the time new roots are formed the soluble nitrogen in the form of nitrates has been leached from the soil where the feeding roots penetrate. Therefore, remember this Spring to dig or hoe lightly around your citrus trees and to disc or plough with discretion.

The soil should be aerated by tine cultivators or disc harrows, but not overworked during the coming months, as by over-cultivation humus tends to be burnt out of the soil instead of being built up, and humus is an essential constituent of a citrus orchard soil.

Re manurial practices. Concentrate upon organic manures, blood and bone, fish manure, fowl or sheep manure.

To obtain good quality fruit, and also to retain the vitality of bearing trees, it is essential that citrus crops be kept free of disease. Of what use is it to grow a good quantity of fruit if it is unmarketable through citrus verrucosis or red scale? Prevention is therefore essential. and here is a spray programme for the coming season. For the small grower, the standard spray mixtures are also set out in terms of four gallons or a kerosene tin.

Lemons.

(1) Pre-blossom of Main Crop. —Bordeaux 3:4:50, or 4 oz. bluestone and 5¼ oz. hydrated lime to 4 gallons water to prevent verrucosis, melanose, greyscab, and wither tip.

(2) Petal Fall of Main Crop. —Bordeaux 3:4:50 plus acid lead arsenate 1½ lbs./100 gallons, or 4 oz. bluestone, 5¼ oz. hydrated lime, and 1¼ oz. acid lead arsenate to 4 gallons of water to prevent or control verrucosis, melanose, grey-scab, wither tip, and leaf-roller caterpillar.

(3) Late December. — Bordeaux 3:4:50.

(4) Mid-February. — Summer oil 3 per cent. and nicotine sulphate 1-800, or 1-1/5 pints of Summer oil and 6 teaspoons of nicotine sulphate to 4 gallons water for the control of red scale and other scales, thrips, blackaphis, red-mite, mealy-bug.

(5) Three to Four Weeks Later.—Summer oil 3 per cent. for the control of red-scale and other scales.

(6) Petal Fall of Autumn Crop.—Bordeaux 3:4:50 for the control of verrucosis, melanose, grey-scab, wither tip, brown rot, and citrus blast.

Oranges.

(1) Petal Fall. — Bordeaux 3:4:50 plus 1½ lb. acid lead arsenate—100 gallons for melanose, greyscab, wither tip, and leaf-roller.

(2) Early January. — Acid lead arsenate 1½ lbs.—100 gallons for leaf-roller.

(3) Mid-February.—Summer oil 3 per cent. plus nicotine sulphate 1-800 for control of redscale and other scales, thrips, red mite, black aphis, mealy bug.

(4) Three to Four Weeks Later.—Summer oil 3 per cent. for control of red scale and other scales.

(5) Early May. — Bordeaux 3:4:5 for control of brown rot, wither tip, and citrus blast.

In conclusion, if a good setting of fruit is desired this season, keep your monthly pickings of Lemons up to date and harvest Oranges as they reach maturity.—A. M. W. Greig, Citriculturist, Auckland, in N.Z. Journal of Agriculture.

CITRUS VITAMIN CHART.

The Victorian Central Citrus Association recently issued an interesting chart setting out the vitamin requirements of children and adults. The chart shows how the deficiency of vitamin C (usually deficient in the average daily diet) can be made up through using more citrus fruit. These charts are being distributed through public health centres to schools.

Queensland

BANANA TRADE — PINEAPPLE AND PAPAW ADVERTISING — SUCCESSFUL FRUIT-FLY LURE.

The following are extracts from the recent Quarterly Report of the Committee of Direction of Fruit Marketing, Brisbane:—

Fruit Fly Lure.

The C.O.D., Brisbane, has purchased the complete rights of the fruit-fly lure formula from Mr. F. C. Robinson, of Gayndah, Queensland; the purchase price was £200.

After further checking and enquiries re patent rights, it is intended to make the formula and method of use public to all Queensland growers.

Citrus Section.

A very encouraging result was secured from the export of a small quantity of Navel Oranges and Lemons to Singapore on April 26. The consignment, which opened up in first-class condition and commanded a ready sale, comprised 2 1-1/3 bush. c/s. Oranges and 3 1-1/3 bush. c/s. Lemons. The fruit realised £8/16/1, and freight charges amounted to £2/6/3; this gives a price of £1/6/- per 1-1/3 bush. case, or the equivalent of 18/2.5 per bushel dump case f.o.b. Brisbane. The cost of special export case would reduce this market parity by about 1/6.

Vegetables.

Drought conditions in New South Wales have accentuated the keen demand for green vegetables in the past few months. Most lines from Queensland have been very satisfactory and high values realised.

Bananas.

Both sales turnover and quantities of bunches and cases handled on the C.O.D. Floors for the twelve months ended June 30, 1941, reflected a satisfactory increase over the preceding 12 months. The following is a comparative summary of transactions over the last two financial years:—

Bunches: Bunches handled on C.O.D. Floor: 1939/40 46,715, 1940/41 91,336. Percentage of total bunch supplies: 1939/40 11.42 per cent., 1940/41 20.8 per cent. C.O.D. average price per dozen: 1939/40 3.71d., 1940/41 3.75d.

Cases: Cases handled on C.O.D. Floor: 1939/40 83,873, 1940/41 87,924. Top price paid on C.O.D. Green Floor: 1939/40 25/-, 1940/41 25/3. Average price paid on C.O.D. Green Floor: 1939/40 12/0½, 1940/41 11/1½.

Papaw Recipe Booklets.

The printing of 50,000 Papaw recipe booklets has now been completed and supplies despatched to Melbourne, Sydney, Newcastle and Brisbane.

A press and radio campaign has been organised to induce people to obtain the booklet.

Avocado.

A meeting of Avocado growers was held on August 14, when cultural and marketing problems were discussed.

A levy of 1d. per half bushel case was brought into force on August 8, for Queensland and N.S.W. growers. This levy will be used to create a fund for advertising Avocadoes.

Strawberry Factory Price.

On July 8 the Strawberry Sub-Committee met canners and successfully negotiated an increase of ½d. per lb. in the price of both jam and canning berries. The new rates for this season are 6d. per lb. jam and 7d. per lb. for canning Strawberries. Factories will absorb all supplies offering.

Pineapple Advertising.

The Committee of Direction of Fruit Marketing, Brisbane, has recently approved of an attractive poster, and placed an order for 10,000 30in. x 20in. and 20,000 20in. x 15in. posters. In addition, Pineapple recipe booklets will be published.

Other matters dealt with included transactions of the Bowen and Townsville branches and C.O.D. merchandise department.—"Queensland Producer."

Redlands Tomato Council.

The Redlands Tomato Council has decided to request the Minister for Agriculture to make available the services of Mr. J. H. Gregory as growers' representative on the Sydney market during the peak of the 1942 Tomato marketing. Mr. Gregory's experiments in the repacking and coloring of Tomatoes are appreciated, and it is desired that he should continue with these tests.

— SPECIAL NOTICE TO FRUITGROWERS —

In response to numerous requests from growers for information as to who are members of the WHOLESALE FRUIT MERCHANTS' ASSOCIATION OF VICTORIA, the following list is given. All are members of the above Association, and are registered firms carrying on business in the WHOLESALE FRUIT MARKET, MELBOURNE. (All Members under Fidelity Bond)

Stand Numbers are as indicated in Parentheses.

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REGAN & KENNY (Successors to Wm. Sweeney) (33).

Correspondence is invited by the Association.

Office: 21 Wholesale Fruit Market, Queen St., Melbourne, Phone: F 4866.

Tasmanian News and Notes

SEASONAL CULTURAL OPERATIONS — PRUNING, SPRAYING, MANURING — SHORTAGE OF MANURES A PROBLEM — CANNING AND DRYING APPLES — EARLY ANNOUNCEMENT RE ACQUISITION OF APPLES AND PEARS DESIRED.

(By Our Correspondent.)

SOME HEAVY FALLS of rain have been experienced both north and south during the past month, which delayed routine work for some days; however, the weather towards the end of August was fine and warm and things are coming on rapidly.

On most orchards the work is a bit behind hand—**pruning** being delayed by the bad weather earlier in the month, and shortage of help. Most growers either have already got or are getting their spraying outfits in order, and many are now putting on **dormant oil sprays** as red spider was rather troublesome last year.

I don't see many new overhead systems being installed this Winter, probably the increased price of all material has caused many who intended to instal a central pumping plant to postpone the work till more settled times. In the southern districts most of these outfits are driven by electric motor, most orchards being linked up with the hydro-electric power supply which we find efficient and clean and not so very dear.

After the dormant oil spray will come the greentip application. For this **Bordeaux Mixture** is almost exclusively used, many growers add a little prepared oil as a spread and sticker, and as a check to insects.

For the pink spray, **lime-sulphur** in varying strengths seems to be the favorite. Several proprietary copper compounds have been put on the market lately, but they do not appear to be equal to the home-made Bordeaux.

Manures are Scarce.

The scarcity of various manures is causing some little worry. The 2.2.1 mixture, I think, is the favorite; about 5 cwt. per acre seems the usual dressing; but this year many growers are using bone dust and bone and blood. The price of all manures seems to be above their value, 2.2.1 being about £15 per ton.

Those growers who systematically go in for **green manuring** are now ploughing them under, and two things are very noticeable: first, the small amount of soil erosion during the recent heavy rains, and the improved mechanical condition of the soil. The improved health of the trees of course will not be noticeable till later.

Blue lupins, beans and a mixture of peas and oats seem to be the favorite crops. Personally, I prefer either **Beans or lupins**, as they give a heavy cover and are easily turned under.

As far as can be seen at so early date, the blossoming promises to be good on the average, even on those varieties that cropped well last season. Some varieties of Pears seem irregular, varying from heavy to light in the same orchard.

Continuance of Acquisition.

The past month has been rather free of fruitgrowers' meetings, but some of the municipal councils have passed resolutions in favor of a continuance of acquisition and **express the hope that the Government will decide what it intends to do early in the season,** so as to allow better co-operation and organisation than in the past, when everything was done at the last minute.

Canning and Drying.

The factories, both canning and drying, are still working, but suitable fruit is becoming scarce so late in the season as the peeling machines will not peel shrivelled Apples, and apparently, when too mature, they do not dry nicely.

Petrol rationing is beginning to interfere with **road transport**, and it is lucky that the bulk of the fruit has been delivered before the stringent cut was imposed.

In view of the shortage of labor and curtailed transport service, many Apple and Pear growers favor the suggestion that a smaller compensation be paid for a portion of crop (consisting of the unwanted kinds) to be sprayed off or otherwise prevented from coming to maturity and so cut down all expenses and relieve the market. If anything is to be done on these lines, a decision must be reached at once, and instructions given before the end of October.

Re-working unwanted varieties will be continued this season in many orchards, and still Delicious and Granny Smith seem the favorite varieties for Apples, and Packhams and Comice for Pears. These varieties will be in very heavy supply in the near future.

Petrol rationing will also be very awkward during the **small fruit** season. The small-fruit areas are being well cared for in most instances as it is expected that it will all be required, provided shipping space is available.

Throughout the Huon and Cygnet districts, **dairying and pig keeping** is increasing where conditions are at all suitable, and this combination should help considerably to keep the pot boiling till better times come again.

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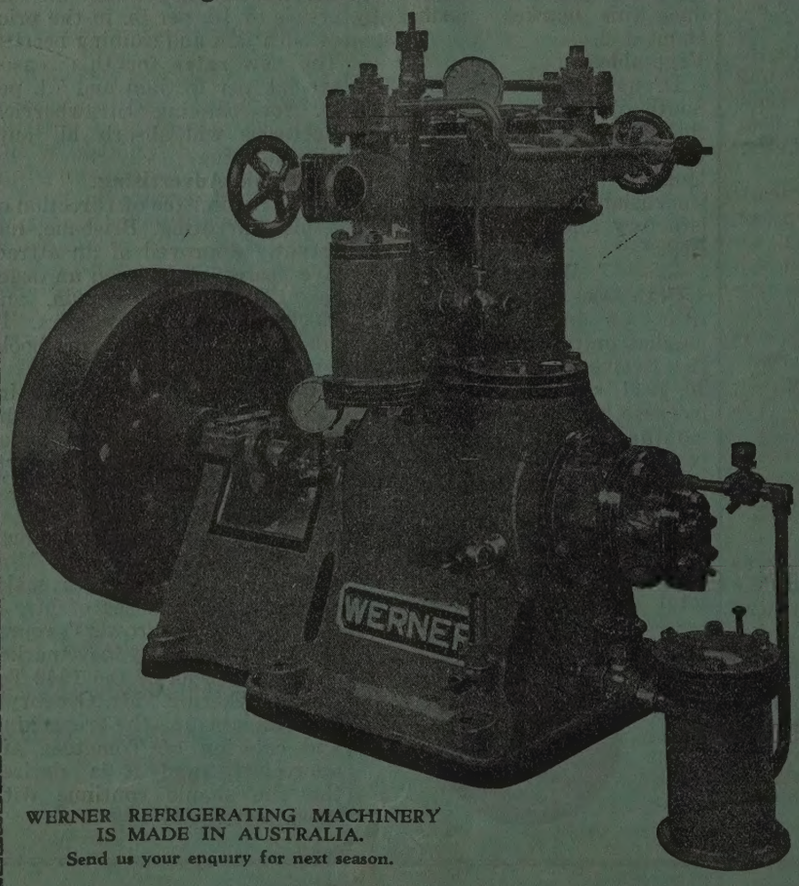

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